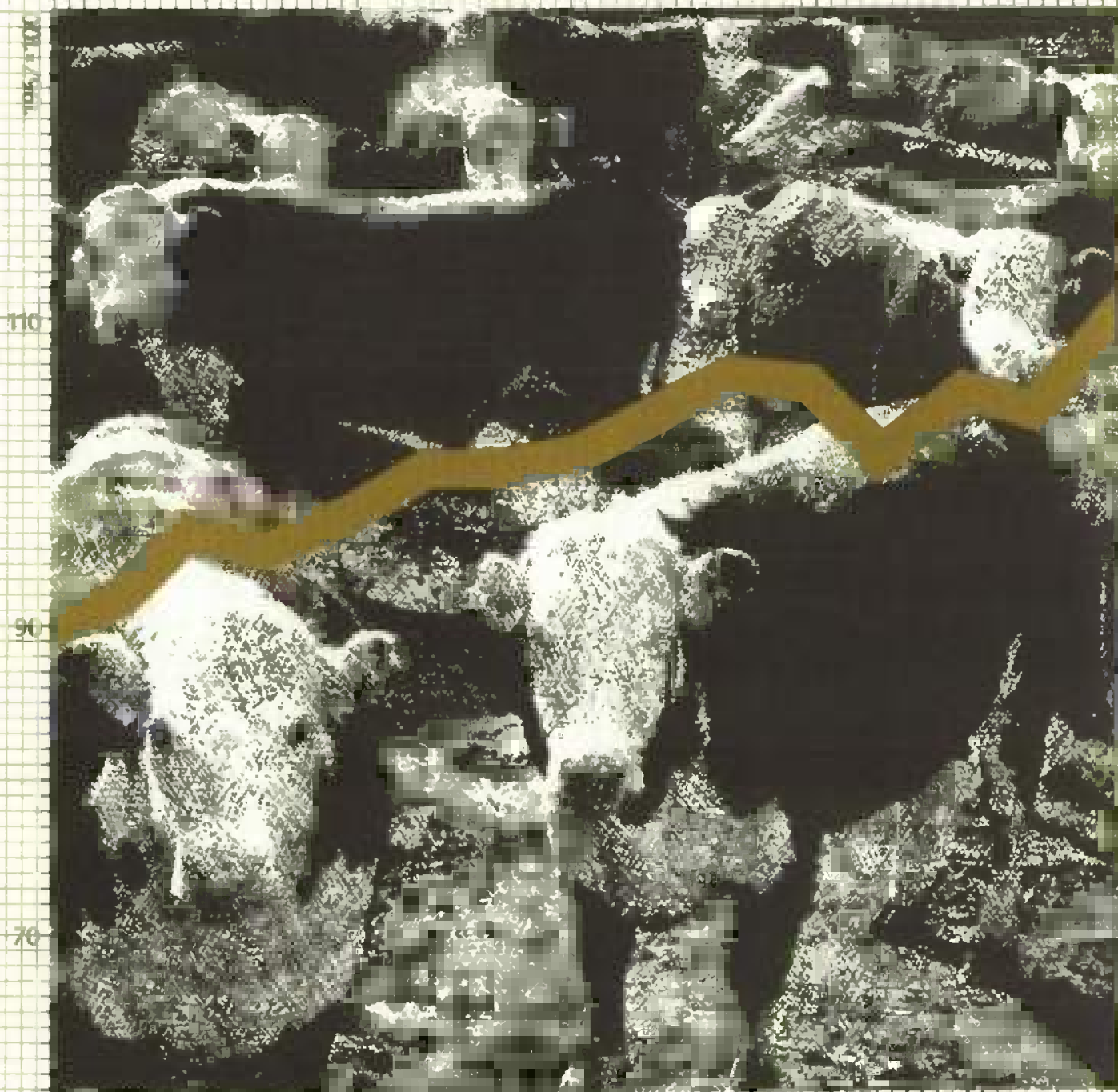


AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

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OUTPUT OF LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS 1962-1991

APRIL 1977

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Situation, and the Demand and Price Situation.*

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- 4 Food prices slated for only small increases, thanks to continued large supplies and relatively steady prices for most items. However, some further boost is likely this summer if meat supplies decline as expected and consumer demand picks up in line with improving economic conditions.
- 7 Stronger livestock and product prices are on the docket later this year. Hog, cattle, and broiler prices should all top year-earlier levels. Milk prices will average higher with the boost in price supports. Only egg prices will be down, under pressure of continued production increases.
- 12 New target prices for 1977 crops and at least two new bills aimed at upping support prices for 1977 are among the key policy developments of recent weeks.
- 13 Fertilizer supplies o.k., despite curtailments of natural gas to ammonia plants during the winter. No major problems are anticipated in supplying farmers' needs this spring.



Weather Impacts 1977/78 Crop and Livestock Prospects

In planting 1977 crops, farmers will respond to a number of factors including price relationships among crops, availability and costs of inputs, and the prospective supply of irrigation water. But once the seed is in the ground, weather will be the single most important factor affecting 1977 crop output. Thus, two weather-related alternatives, out of an unlimited number, are used for 1977/78 to appraise probable economic outcomes for supplies, prices, and uses of major crops and livestock products.

The two alternatives reflect current developments in the weather through March with assumed subsequent weather developments for the planting and growing seasons:

Alternative I—Assumes relatively favorable spring and summer growing conditions here and abroad. This implies a continuation of the favorable weather trends in recent weeks in the United States and the rest of the world.

Alternative II—Assumes weather conditions this spring and summer would resume earlier drought trends, particularly in the North Central and Western States. It further assumes that world weather and growing conditions also would turn less favorable—resulting in stronger foreign demand for a drought-reduced supply of U.S. farm products.

The final outcome of 1977 crop output is many months away and uncertainties abound. But with recent widespread improvement in moisture conditions in the United States, prospective developments have moved closer to the relatively favorable weather assumption.

Current Situation

Areas stricken by the drought are suffering, especially parts of the Western States and the upper Midwest. For some areas it is the second year of drought. California, for example, was able to maintain output and gross income in 1975 and 1976 by drawing down supplies

of irrigation water and, in part, by reducing cattle herds. But a drought-ravaged State like South Dakota, for example, suffered big cuts in production and receipts for major field crops in 1975 and 1976 as well as continued liquidation of cattle herds.

Most dry areas of the Nation have benefited from rain and snow in recent weeks. Moreover, the mid-March to mid-April weather forecast and the 90-day forecast prepared earlier point to a better than usual spring. Although this added moisture does not overcome the drought, the storms have helped to replenish subsoil moisture in drought areas and have generally improved crop prospects for 1977.

Results Under Relatively Favorable Weather (Alternative I)

Except for winter wheat which is already seeded, planted acreage, yields, abandonment, and production of major 1977 crops are uncertain at this time. Decisions on crop plantings will depend in part on weather conditions as well as economic prospects for different crops as they compete for the use of land, water, and other resources.

If weather is relatively favorable, output of crops in 1977 would total close to 1976 levels. However, low subsoil moisture in parts of the Corn Belt and drought in the West will likely keep yields below trend for major field crops. Grain crops would be hard pressed to match last year's big crops, but plantings and output of soybeans would surely be well above 1976. Cotton acreage also will likely increase from 1976, depending in part on plantings in California.

Corn production of more than 6 billion bushels would be expected under the favorable weather assumption—around last year's record and more than enough to meet likely domestic and foreign requirements. Corn plantings this year will likely fall short of 1976 due to high soybean prices relative to corn. With larger carryover stocks in prospect, corn

prices would likely continue under pressure.

Soybean production would jump under the favorable weather alternative, perhaps to more than 1.5 billion bushels, due mostly to expanded acreage.

Soybean plantings in 1977 may total around 55 to 58 million acres, up from 50 million in 1976, depending on the soybean-corn price ratio, spring planting weather, and the extent to which farmers double-crop. Recently, the soybean-corn price ratio has been $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 favoring soybeans. This high ratio should encourage farmers to plant more acreage than the 53 million acres indicated in January. In March 1973, when the ratio exceeded 4 to 1, farmers increased 1973 soybean plantings around 10 million acres over the year before. Despite a larger crop, soybean supplies would remain tight, although some expansion in both the crush and exports would likely occur. Prices of soybeans probably would soften a little with a big crop, but may still average \$5 to \$6 per bushel for the season.

Wheat production in 1977/78 is expected to decline, even if the weather is favorable this spring and summer. Around 55.8 million acres were seeded to winter wheat last fall, 3 percent less than the previous year. It is still too early to obtain a definitive assessment of any damage to the crop because of dry weather and high winds in the Southern Plains. Seedings of spring wheat may be larger than planned in January because of improved moisture conditions in the Northern Plains. But total wheat acreage will still be lower than in 1976/77. However, since stocks of wheat are building, the total supply of wheat for the 1977/78 marketing year would still be moderately larger than a year earlier. Even with some strengthening in domestic markets, export levels would continue low and wheat prices would probably continue under pressure of large supplies. Prices

OUTPUT AND PRICES OF MAJOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

Commodity	1974	1975	1976	1977 estimated ¹		1978 projected ¹	
				Alt. I	Alt. II	Alt. I	Alt. II
Beef:							
Commercial output (bil. lb.)	22.8	23.7	25.7	24.5	24.7	23.9	22.9
Price, Choice steers, Omaha (\$/cwt.)	41.89	44.61	39.11	41-43	41-43	45-47	50-52
Pork:							
Commercial output (bil. lb.)	13.6	11.3	12.2	13.8	13.8	14.0	13.2
Price, Barrows and Gilts, 7 markets (\$/cwt.)	35.12	48.32	43.11	36-38	36-38	38-40	44-46
Broilers:							
Commercial output (bil. lb.)	7.9	8.0	9.0	9.4	9.3	9.9	8.5
Price, 9-city avg. wholesale (cts./lb.)	38.2	45.1	40.2	39-41	40-42	39-41	46-48
Eggs:							
Output (bil. eggs)	65.9	64.4	64.8	65.8	65.4	67.2	64.8
Price, Grade A large, New York (cts./doz.)	58.2	57.8	65.0	63-65	64-66	56-58	66-68
Milk:							
Output (bil. lb.)	115.6	115.3	120.4	123.3	122.1	124.0	120.0
Price, farm, all milk (\$/cwt.)	8.33	8.75	9.68	9.90	9.95	10.15	10.25

¹ Alternative I—Assumes relatively favorable spring and summer weather conditions in the U.S. and abroad. Alternative II—Assumes unfavorable U.S. and foreign weather conditions.

in 1977/78 could average around 50 cents per bushel below this season's \$2.80 to \$3.00 average.

Continued large feed supplies would encourage livestock and poultry producers to expand meat production in 1977 and 1978. However, beef production might still fall off as cattlemen begin to take steps to halt the liquidation phase of the cattle cycle by withholding young heifers from slaughter. But fed beef, pork, and broiler output likely would expand in 1977 and into 1978 resulting in continued relatively large supplies of livestock and livestock products.

With relatively favorable weather both here and abroad, food prices in 1977 would likely average around 4 or 5 percent above the relatively stable level in 1976. About half of this increase would be due to higher prices for nonfarm foods, especially coffee. Coffee prices early this year were up over 80 percent from a year ago. The retail value of domestic farm produced foods is up only about 1 percent from a year ago and for the year may average around 3 percent above 1976. Higher marketing charges for U.S. farm foods in 1977 would account for most of the increase.

Total net farm income would remain near 1976's \$22 billion, including the value of significant inventory accumulation of the major grains. Livestock receipts would be well maintained, particularly in the second half when smaller beef supplies and improving consumer purchasing power are expected to push up livestock prices.

Results Under Unfavorable Weather Here and Abroad (Alternative II)

Should weather conditions turn unfavorable this spring and extend into the summer growing season, total crop output in 1977 could run as much as 8 to 10 percent below 1976. Such a cut would put upward pressure on prices of all major field crops. If corn production were to total only around 5 billion bushels while exports held near recent record

highs with the strong world demand, corn prices would respond to the tighter situation. Average prices for the season would rise to around \$3 per bushel, well above the \$2.25 to \$2.50 per bushel now estimated for 1976/77. The soybean supply-demand situation would be critical if this year's production were to hold around last year's small crop. Domestic users and overseas markets would bid against each other for the available supply which would likely force prices to alltime highs. However, wheat prices would strengthen if this year's crop falls off to 1.7 billion bushels, but the large cushion of stocks would temper the upward price impact of larger exports.

Smaller production of corn and other feed grains would seriously impact on livestock output in late 1977 and in 1978. Livestock and poultry producers would respond to high feed prices by reducing their feeding and breeding operations. At first, the adjustments would add to the meat supply as breeding stock is sent to slaughter. But meat production would fall off in 1978 and prices would likely rise rather substantially at both the wholesale and retail levels.

An unfavorable growing season would likely accelerate the rise in food prices only modestly in 1977, perhaps averaging around 5 or 6 percent above the stable

SUPPLY AND USE OF MAJOR CROPS

Commodity	Production	Domestic use	Exports	Ending stocks	Season average price
		Mil. units			Dol. per bu.
Corn (bushel):					
1974/75	4,664	3,641	1,149	359	3.03
1975/76	5,797	4,049	1,711	398	2.54
1976/77 estimated	6,216	4,241	1,650	724	2.25-2.50
1977/78 projected ¹					
Alternative I	6,200	4,380	1,300	1,245	1.60-2.10
Alternative II	5,000	3,775	1,600	350	2.80-3.40
Wheat (bushel):					
1974/75	1,796	690	1,018	430	4.09
1975/76	2,135	730	1,173	664	3.55
1976/77 estimated	2,147	743	950	1,120	2.80-3.00
1977/78 projected ¹					
Alternative I	2,000	845	900	1,380	2.25-2.60
Alternative II	1,700	945	1,200	680	2.90-3.50
Soybeans (bushel):					
1974/75	1,215	780	421	185	6.64
1975/76	1,546	931	555	245	4.92
1976/77 estimated	1,265	900	545	65	6.75-7.25
1977/78 projected ¹					
Alternative I	1,565	915	580	135	5.00-6.00
Alternative II	1,300	780	525	60	9.50-10.50
Upland Cotton (bale):					Cts. per lb.
1974/75	11.5	5.8	3.9	5.6	42.7
1975/76	8.2	7.2	3.3	3.6	51.1
1976/77 estimated	10.5	6.7	4.6	3.0	—

¹ Alternative I—Assumes relatively favorable spring and summer weather conditions in the U.S. and abroad. Alternative II—Assumes unfavorable U.S. and foreign weather conditions.

food prices in 1976. Much of the drought impact would be reflected in livestock output and supplies of meat and poultry. Thus, the main impact would come in 1978 as livestock operations are restricted in response to reduced supplies and higher costs for feed. Under these conditions, average retail food prices in 1978 could run around a tenth above average prices for 1977.

Unfavorable weather and poor world crops would boost farm income dramatically for those producers who did not suffer big crop losses in 1977. Short crops would lead to a further and probably more rapid liquidation of livestock herds and to losses for livestock producers. Net farm incomes would improve over 1976, but crop producers would reap most of the benefit. Higher farm income levels would extend into 1978 as a tight supply-demand situation maintains crop receipts. Moreover, livestock producers would begin to reap gains from sharply reduced output—due to 3 years of liquidation—and an improving economy with increasing demand and higher prices for livestock products.

Weather Update

What kind of weather we will have and how U.S. agricultural production will fare overall are still big question marks. Nationwide, the weather continues to improve in most areas. The monthly forecast through mid-April and the weather outlook for the next 90 days point to above-average rainfall. Based on historical occurrences, the odds favoring average weather this spring and summer are perhaps five times as great as the chances of a dry spring and dry summer growing season.

With the disastrous consequences of the abnormally cold weather in the East and Northeast behind us, concern is now focused on the drought in much of the West and upper Midwest. Many of these areas are suffering their second year of dry weather.

The upper Midwest—the Dakotas, Minnesota, and parts of Iowa and Wisconsin—suffered big cuts in production of field crops, and cattlemen were forced to continue reducing their herds.

California, which produces around half of the Nation's fresh and processing vegetables, is in its second dry year. However, since most of California's crops are irrigated, the State was able to

maintain output and gross income reasonably well in 1976. Also, southern California has not been as hard hit as the north.

There is some reason for cautious optimism about the fate of these hard-hit States. The high pressure ridge off the coast of California that caused much of the abnormal weather earlier this winter lifted during the middle of February. Since then, more normal weather patterns have prevailed throughout the Nation.

Most of the central and northern Corn Belt, as well as the Rockies, got late winter storms that brought desperately needed inches of precipitation. Even though some of these storms caused livestock and calving losses, areas of the upper and central Midwest that didn't even have enough moisture to germinate crops this spring or to fill wells and stock watering ponds now have enough to recharge groundwater.

However, subsoil moisture is still very short and good rains throughout the growing season will be needed to maintain pasture and crop growth. Also, moisture appears adequate in the Southeast, in the eastern Corn Belt, in parts of the Southern Plains, and in southern California.

California has also been receiving increased precipitation from what it had earlier this winter. Every few days the State has been getting some rain or else some snow in the Sierras. Since California's "rainy season" normally shuts off within the next few weeks, the hope now is that the rains will last a little longer this year. The situation in northern California is still critical and the reservoirs are low.

Right now the big question is how much runoff will be coming from the snowpack in the mountains. Water levels in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley reservoirs are now about half what they were a year ago. Some adjustments that will moderate the influence of the drought are:

- Increased production in southern California in expectation of higher crop prices.

- Shifts in the proportion of water applied to higher value crops.

- The adoption of improved, more efficient irrigation practices.

- The idling of marginal, low productivity acres by farmers.

- State programs to encourage ground water pumping and well digging.

Commodity Highlights

Soybeans: Supplies tighten...prices hit \$8.60 a bu. at Chicago in late March vs. \$4.60 a year ago...hot pace of crushings and exports to slow in coming months ... but prices to continue strong

... July futures now at \$8.50, up \$1 in past month...stocks at minimal levels by September ... 1977 acreage may climb perhaps over a tenth...situation could still continue tight next season even with good crops...Brazil set 7-percent export tax on soybeans on March 23 to subsidize domestic prices ... tax should have little effect on the quantity exported this year...at the same time, Brazil resumed the export of soybean products after a 2-week halt to set up the tax system.

Soybean meal: 1976/77 supplies down 6 percent...use holding up so far...prices zoom to \$225 a ton at Decatur, \$100 above late March 1976...high prices to remain till 1977 crop becomes clear.

Vegetables: Fresh market prices up sharply after Florida freeze...larger fresh supplies on the way...grower and retail prices expected to turn down in coming weeks...some canned tomato product prices weakened in February and March, but higher prices on the horizon with smaller 1977 tomato pack likely.

Fruits: 1976/77 citrus, orange crops still above last year despite Florida freeze...but orange juice yields cut by freeze...fresh and citrus juice prices move higher...overall fruit prices to advance seasonally in January-June, average above year earlier.

Cattle: Seven-State March 1 on-feed inventory off 7 percent...placements down 4 percent in February...marketings up...slaughter eases...if pastures continue improving, nonfeds could stay on grass till summer...cow prices up \$4 since February...spring and early summer cattle marketings may lag more than we thought...fed cattle could rise into low \$40's this spring and early summer from current \$37-\$38 at Omaha.

Hogs: Prices slip to \$37 after strengthening in December-January...slaughter well above year ago...first half pork output up about 15 percent...prices may dip this spring...second half pork output may rise less than 5 percent...prices to exceed year earlier by fall.

Broilers: Broiler output up 5 percent in first half, possibly even higher in second half if feed prices ease...weather

plays havoc with early 1977 production and marketings...prices rise, holding in low 40-cent per pound range...lower prices likely by spring before increasing seasonally this summer.

Eggs: Output restricted by early season cold weather, to rebound in coming months...larger production likely rest of year...flock replacement pullets up 16 percent for March-June, reflect improved margins...prices drop after early 1977 runup, now 20 cents below late January...seasonal weakness this spring...second half prices well below year ago's average 70 cents per dozen.

Dairy: Manufacturing milk support raised 9 percent to \$9.00 per cwt... will boost milk prices...production gains to continue...2-3 percent more milk likely in 1977...manufacturing heavy, butter and cheese output up sharply...CCC buying heavily...stocks well above year ago...wholesale prices close to support.

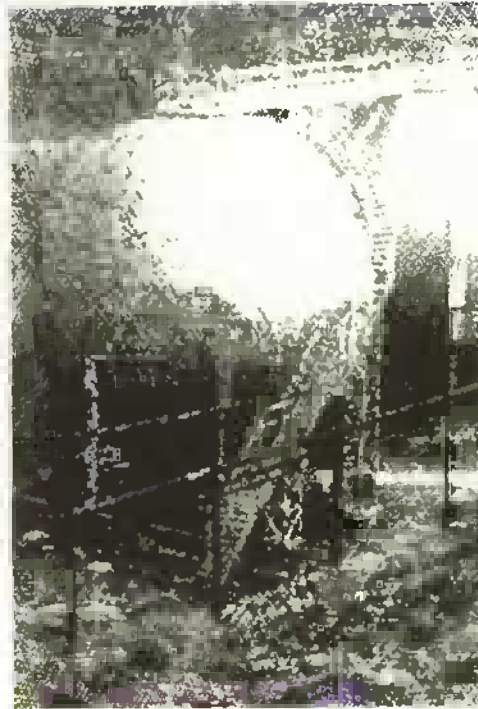
Rice: Supplies up 14 percent...more rice going into beer...exports up 15-20 percent in 1976/77...U.S. stocks still building, may reach 43-47 mil. cwt. by Aug. vs. 37 mil. last year and 7 mil. 2 years ago...prices sag below target price...deficiency payments of \$1.70 per cwt. triggered.

Tobacco: 1976/77 supplies up 3 percent...smokers puff 1½ percent more cigarettes...but higher stocks likely...grower prices up a tenth for 1976 crop to record high...with smaller farm quotas, 1977 output may fall slightly...price supports 7 percent higher this year.

Sugar: 1976/77 world crop up 6 percent...stocks building...prices below cost of production in many areas...U.S. International Trade Commission reports domestic sugar industry being threatened with injury by increased imports, recommends quota restraints be imposed on sugar imports.

Coffee: Wholesale roasted prices continue upward, shoot over \$4 a lb., new record high...retail prices will follow wholesale up unless there is consumer resistance...world supplies remain tight.

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Food and Marketing

Retail food prices at grocery stores jumped 2.8 percent from January to February as the full impact of the Florida freeze on fruit and vegetable prices hit retail markets and coffee prices continued to spiral. This was the sharpest month-to-month rise since early 1974. Grocery store food prices were over 3½ percent above a year ago.

The largest retail price increases in February were for fresh vegetables which were up almost a fourth from January. Restricted supplies from Florida—normally the main source of many fresh vegetables at this time of year—caused prices of cabbage, carrots,

tomatoes, and celery to jump sharply. Retail prices of fresh citrus and orange juice were also up in February, but at a much smaller rate than for vegetables. Relatively stable prices for most processed fruit and vegetables in grocery stores in February gave consumers some alternative to these sharply higher fresh produce prices.

With the effects of the Florida freeze behind us, supplies of tender vegetables in late March and early April were expected to return to the market in usual quantities for this time of year. As a result, grower prices for fresh vegetables could fall during April, and retail prices could also be turning down as spring harvests begin.

Poultry and egg prices also showed sizable increases in February. Egg prices hit a record high \$1.03 per dozen, 7 percent above January. Cold weather cut back egg production in January, and wholesale prices rose sharply. However, wholesale egg prices have come back down since and retail egg prices should also be coming down from the February peak and show additional declines this spring. The cold weather in January disrupted broiler marketings and slowed rates of gain with slaughter somewhat lower than had been expected. Retail broiler prices rose nearly 8 percent from January to February. But prices are expected to turn down this spring as production picks up.

February red meat retail prices were up around 1 percent from a month earlier but were still around 6 percent below February 1976. Most of the January-to-February rise was among pork cuts since most beef items averaged a little lower. April-June pork production is expected to increase around 15 percent above a year ago, and pork prices are likely to hold relatively steady till summer. On the other hand, cattle prices may strengthen this spring and summer as beef production drops seasonally. Widespread drought this year could boost cattle marketings and forestall price rises until later in the year when meat supplies would fall off.

Coffee prices continued to soar, rising about a tenth from January to February and more than 80 percent above a year ago. Further increases in wholesale cof-

RETAIL PRICE INDEXES¹

Item	Feb. 1977	Change from	
		Jan. 1977	Feb. 1976
	1967=100		Pct.
Cereal and bakery products	180.0	0.1	-0.6
Beef and veal	161.5	-4	-4.0
Pork	185.1	2.8	-11.2
Poultry	152.9	5.8	-4.3
Eggs	207.9	5.1	12.4
Dairy products	171.1	-1	1.5
Fresh fruits	172.3	5.0	17.9
Fresh vegetables	228.9	24.5	27.7
Processed fruit and vegetables	181.6	.1	-2.6
Fats and oils	179.5	.4	1.2
Sugar	179.2	1.3	-15.6
Coffee (canned)	364.1	9.9	82.9
Away from home	193.6	.7	6.4
At home	186.2	2.8	3.7
All food	187.7	2.3	4.3

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

FOOD PRICES JUMP IN FEBRUARY

% OF 1967



SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

fee prices effective in March will likely cause further gains in retail stores.

Prices of food eaten in restaurants and other away-from-home eating places continued to rise a little over a half percent in February, remaining about 6½ percent above a year ago. More dependent on labor, energy, and other non-food related costs, away-from-home food prices more nearly reflect the overall rise in prices throughout the economy.

Continued large supplies and relatively steady prices for most foods likely will limit overall retail food price advances this spring. First quarter prices likely averaged around 3 percent above fourth quarter 1976 levels. With relatively favorable weather both here and abroad, food prices in 1977 would likely average around 4 or 5 percent above the relatively stable level in 1976. About half of this increase would be due to higher prices for nonfarm foods, especially coffee. Coffee prices early this year were up over 80 percent from a year ago. The retail value of domestic farm produced foods is up only about 1 percent from a year ago and for the year may average around 3 percent above 1976. Higher marketing charges for U.S. farm foods in 1977 would account for most of the increase.

An unfavorable growing season would likely result in 1977 food prices aver-

aging around 5 or 6 percent above last year. Bigger supplies and lower prices for products could moderate the food price rise through summer. However, reduced livestock and crop supplies would cause sharply higher food prices and strong inflationary pressures later this year and into 1978. Consequently, the big impact would come in 1978 when average retail food prices could run around a tenth above 1977, under unfavorable weather conditions.

Marketing Spreads Turn Up in February

Farm-retail spreads, the difference between what consumers paid and farmers received for a market basket of foods, increased around 1 percent from January to February.¹ Marketing spreads increased most for fresh vegetables as farm and retail prices rose sharply from freeze-reduced supplies of most vegetables. While marketing spreads also increased moderately for fruit, spreads for beef, dairy products, and oilseed products narrowed. Spreads changed relatively little for most other market basket products.

The farm value of the market basket jumped 5 percent in February as returns to farmers increased for most foods. Increases were particularly sharp for fresh fruits and vegetables, poultry, eggs,

and oilseeds. However, farm values for most other farm foods were also up.

The retail cost of the market basket increased 2.5 percent in February for the largest monthly increase since July 1975. Prices for fresh vegetables showed the sharpest rise—up about 25 percent from January. Other increases for market basket foods from January to February included a 7-percent rise for poultry, and 5 percent for both eggs and fresh fruit.

Relative to a year earlier, the February farm-retail spread averaged 2.4 percent wider with the farm value down 1.3 percent and the retail cost of the market basket up 1 percent.

The farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar spent in retail food stores for farm foods was 39 cents in February, up 1 cent from January and down 1 cent from a year earlier.

Food Store Sales Bounce Back

Sales at food stores in January dipped 3 percent from the previous month partly due to the severe weather. Cold weather cut employment and income, and a larger share of consumer incomes were going for heating fuels. Snow and cold also prevented travel to stores. But sales bounced back in February and so far in March.

After rising 7 percent from a year earlier in 1976, food store sales this January-February have been running around 4 percent larger. Sales by eating places continue upward at a strong pace, and apparel store sales rose about 2½ percent early this year. (Larry Summers and Anthony Gallo)

¹The market basket represents the average quantities of U.S. farm-originated foods purchased annually per household in 1960-61. Retail cost of these foods is based on an index of retail prices for domestically produced farm foods, a component of the Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The farm value is the payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of food products minus allowances for byproducts. The farm-retail spread is the difference between the retail cost and farm value.

Beef and Pork Prices and Spreads Lower

Retail prices of beef and pork, market prices for beef cattle and hogs, and price spreads for each were significantly lower this February than a year earlier.

The retail price for Choice beef, which has been fairly stable in recent months, averaged \$1.35 a pound in February—8 cents lower than in February 1976. The decrease was accompanied by slightly lower cattle prices and sharply lower marketing spreads. The farm value of 2¼ pounds of live cattle equivalent to a

pound of retail cuts of Choice beef decreased about 3 cents to 75 cents while the farm-retail spread decreased 5 cents to 60 cents. Most of the decrease from a year earlier was in the carcass-retail component, which includes charges for in-city delivery, wholesaling, and retailing. The rest of the decrease was in the farm-carcass component which includes charges for marketing, slaughtering, curing, processing, and shipping beef. This component often decreases when the volume of cattle marketed increases.

Decreases in prices and marketing

spreads for pork were much greater than for beef during the past year. In February, the retail price of pork cuts averaged \$1.21 per pound—down around 20 cents from a year earlier. About four-fifths of the drop came from lower farm values with the other fifth from narrower farm-retail spreads.

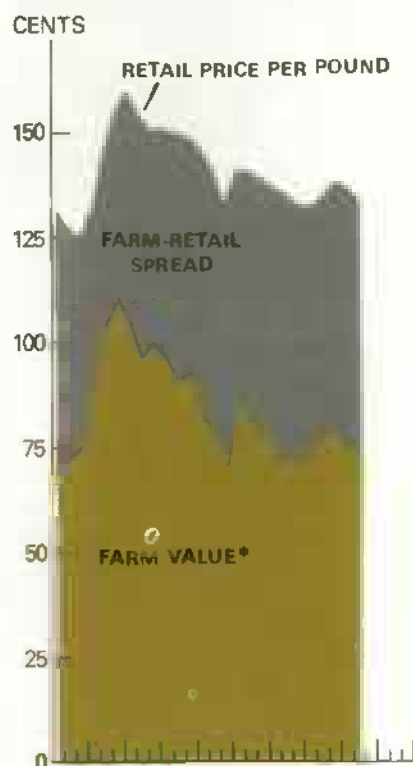
The farm value of the almost 2 pounds of live hog equivalent to a pound of retail pork cuts dropped almost 17 cents to 71 cents a pound in February. Hog prices, which averaged about \$49 per 100 pounds in February 1976, averaged \$40 this February. However, prices were extremely volatile during the year, reaching \$51 in June as supplies of hogs tightened, but plummeted to \$32 in November as supplies increased. Although retail prices for pork increased in both January and February, the rapid rise in the farm value from November to February squeezed farm-retail spreads. This often happens when hog prices increase sharply, but it was probably accentuated this time since the increase closely followed a period of extremely sharp decreases. Farm-retail spreads peaked in October at a record 67 cents and dropped to around 50 cents in February as retail price increases lagged the rise in hog prices. Hog prices have weakened since February and, as a result, farm-retail spreads can be expected to widen in the next month or so. (Henry Badger)

Food Stamps Represent 5 Percent of Food Expenditures

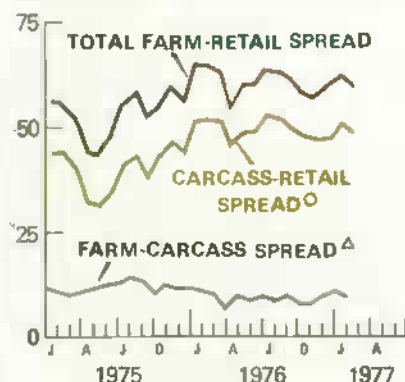
Food stamps valued at \$7.8 billion were issued in the 50 States and the District of Columbia in 1976, up 2 percent from the previous year. Despite a drop in participation, food stamps issued were up in value because of the January 1976 cost-of-living adjustment. Government's contribution in the form of bonus stamps came to \$4.65 billion last year, 1 percent above 1975. The total value of stamps issued in 1976 represented some 5 percent of expenditures for food at home.

Generally improved employment conditions during the year, along with stable grocery store prices, resulted in an overall participation drop in the Food Stamp Program. In the 50 States and District of Columbia, an average 16.3 million people received food stamps in 1976, down 1 million from 1975. (Fredericka Bunting)

RETAIL BEEF PRICES FALL AS FARM VALUES DROP...

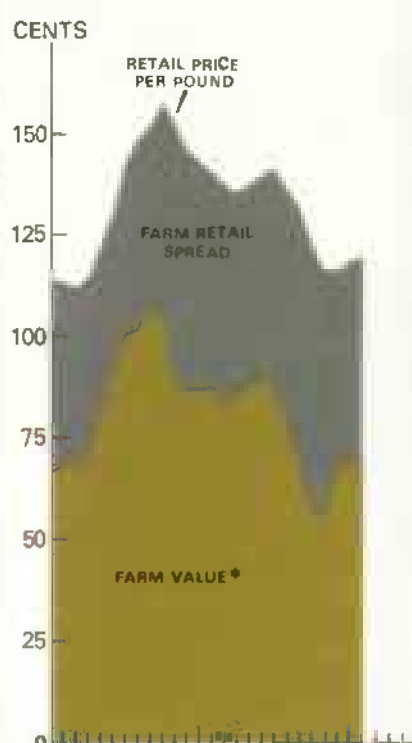


...DESPITE LARGE SPREADS

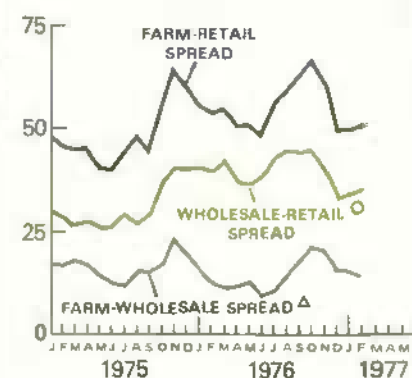


* PAYMENT TO FARMER FOR 2.28 LBS. CHOICE STEER LESS ALLOWANCE FOR BYPRODUCTS.
○ CHARGE FOR IN-CITY DELIVERY, WHOLESALING AND RETAILING.
△ CHARGE FOR MARKETING, SLAUGHTERING, CURING, PROCESSING, AND SHIPPING.

RETAIL PORK PRICES LAG FARM PRICE INCREASE...



...AS SPREADS NARROW



* PAYMENT TO FARMER FOR 1.97 LB. LIVE HOG LESS ALLOWANCE FOR BYPRODUCTS.
○ CHARGE FOR IN-CITY DELIVERY, WHOLESALING AND RETAILING.
△ CHARGE FOR MARKETING, SLAUGHTERING, CURING, PROCESSING, AND SHIPPING.



Commodities

Production of livestock and livestock commodities in the first half of 1977 continues to run above year-earlier levels although somewhat below record second half 1976 output. Total livestock production could be up around 2 to 3 percent from a year-earlier in January-June.

Rising feed costs and deteriorating feeding margins caused many livestock and poultry operators to throttle back production rather sharply in 1974 and 1975. But as commodity prices rose and margins became more favorable, livestock producers started taking steps in late 1975 and 1976 to boost output. Feedlot operators placed more cattle on feed, plans were made to increase the number of sows farrowing, broiler chick placements rose, and dairymen stepped up grain and concentrate feeding. As a result, production of livestock products rose almost 7 percent in 1976 and continued at high levels in early 1977 with most commodities still showing gains.

Meat production (red meats and poultry) may total around 25 billion pounds in the first half of 1977, up 3 to 4 percent from a year ago following a 9-percent gain in 1976. Pork production is expected to rise about 15 percent in January-June.

Beef production continues large, although first half output may be down slightly from record 1976 levels. Under a cost-price squeeze, feedlot operators cut back placements last summer. However, placements bounced back late in the year encouraged by dry conditions, reduced forage supplies, and lower corn prices. As a result, fed cattle marketings may hold near year-ago levels in January-June. Favorable spring grazing could mean a drop of 3 to 4 percent in nonfed steer and heifer marketings. However, poor weather this spring could cause farmers to market more nonfed cattle, resulting in larger beef production than now appears likely.

Broiler producers continue to market more birds than a year ago, although gains have slackened from last year. First half broiler production is likely to total about 5 percent more. Despite operating generally in the red during the latter part of 1976, broiler producers continued to place around 5 percent more chicks early this year which will be available for marketing in the second quarter.

In addition, egg and milk producers are still boosting output. Egg producers are continuing to turn a profit, and although cold weather reduced early 1977 production, we should see gains in coming months. Milk production continues upward in early 1977, although gains have slowed from last fall. First half milk output is still expected to rise around 3 percent from year-ago levels.

Larger output has generally reduced prices of most livestock items. With the exception of eggs, prices of major livestock and livestock products in first half 1977 will probably run below a year-ago. Egg prices rose sharply early this year as cold weather cut back output, but prices have since fallen off. Hog prices strengthened in December and January but have slipped recently and still remain well below year-earlier prices. Milk prices, which were up sharply through most of last year, tailed off late in the year, and in January-March were 3 to 4 percent below a year ago. However, the April 1 increase in support prices means farm milk prices during the rest of 1977 will average moderately above year-earlier levels.

Although livestock marketings in the second half of 1977 will depend on the outturn of 1977 crops, actions already taken and plans underway by livestock and poultry producers will also have an important impact. Although corn prices are currently below year-earlier levels,

high-protein meals and hay are in tight supply and high priced. Soybean meal in late-March was running around \$225 a ton (44 percent bulk at Decatur), compared with \$130 last March. Baled alfalfa hay was averaging around \$80 a ton early this year, almost a fifth higher. Hay stocks are the lowest since the early 1960's, but a 3-percent larger 1976 silage crop has been partially offsetting.

Crop production this year will depend heavily on weather developments. And with sub-soil moisture short in many areas, rainfall during the growing season will be even more important this year. Drought conditions this summer could reduce the pasture and forage supplies and force movement of cattle to market. Although growers have indicated a sizable increase in soybean acreage this year, soybean meal supplies will continue tight through most of 1977. More favorable planting and growing conditions could help ease crop prices despite the fact most crops would not be available until fall.

Production of livestock and products in the second half of 1977 may be near year-ago record levels. Gains in pork production are expected to slow appreciably from the very high year-earlier rates. Producers have indicated they will have about 4 percent more sows farrowing in March-August this year; a year ago 20 percent more sows were farrowed.

Cattle on feed inventories were 3 percent below a year ago in January, but feedlot placements should be up this spring. As a result, second half fed cattle marketings could be about the same as a year ago. With an increase in feedlot placements this summer and fall, nonfed steer and heifer slaughter would likely decline and second half beef production may drop further below record year-earlier levels. If drought conditions persist this summer and cattlemen are forced to move cattle to market at that time, we could see an even greater decline in beef production late this year. Broiler output is likely to remain above a year ago in the second half—perhaps near the first half 5-percent gain. Egg producers are expected to turn out more eggs—likely around 2 percent more than in July-December 1976. Milk production is expected to continue increasing in the last half of 1977 and total around 2 to 3 percent larger for the year.

Some strengthening in livestock and

product prices is expected later this year. Hog prices could push above a year earlier by late in the year and second half cattle and broiler prices will likely average higher than second half 1976. Continued increases in egg production could keep egg prices well below a year ago. Milk prices are likely to average higher in the second half with the substantial boost in price supports.

Cyclical Expansion in Hog Numbers Slows

Hog producers reported plans to increase the number of sows farrowing this spring by 3 percent. Farrowings during the winter quarter were up 12 percent. But heavy death losses among baby pigs restricted the increase in the pig crop to around 7 percent.

The larger December-February pig crop assures year-to-year gains in pork production through this summer. But if farrowings rise only 3 percent in March-May, a smaller average litter size and the accelerated movement of hogs to slaughter last fall point to the first year-to-year reduction in pork supplies in the current production cycle by this October-December.

The near-term outlook calls for larger gains in production. Poor feed conversion this winter has altered considerably the timing of marketings and slaughter. Pork production during the winter quarter was up about 12 percent. Second quarter hog slaughter could increase around 15 to 20 percent over a year ago. Second quarter hog prices may average in the mid- \$30 range.

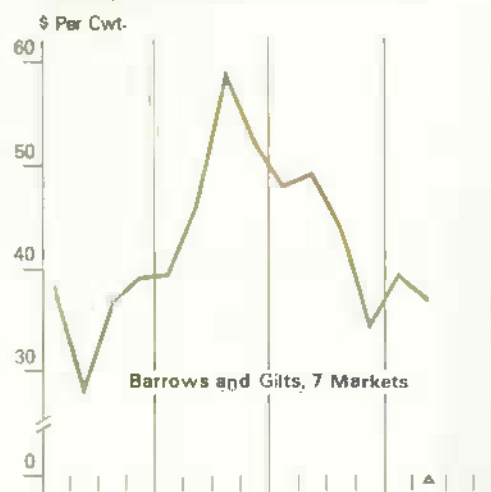
Given the more modest increase in pork output in store for the second half of the year, market hog prices may hold near the July-December average of \$39 per 100 pounds, but prices could rise above 1976 by the fall quarter.

With only a 7-percent increase planned for December-May farrowings, a sharp curtailment of the expansion phase of the hog cycle is underway. Following the break in hog prices last summer, a turn in the production cycle during the second half of this year was anticipated. But the price recovery late in 1976 minimized losses and in late winter hog production returned a profit. The March survey of producer intentions suggests a 5-percent larger summer quarter pig

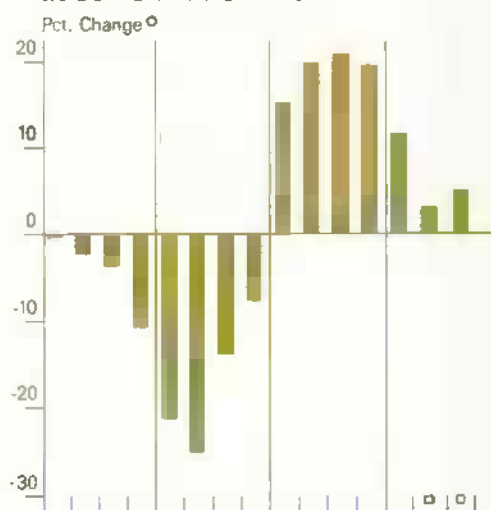
crop. Sows scheduled to farrow this summer must be bred by April. And, while the profit potential appears less promising for this spring, recovery of feed and

feeder pig costs are likely. Depending on developments in the feed grain market, the profit outlook could improve significantly this summer. With a period of sustained losses required to trigger liquidation, any cyclical downturn in hog numbers is unlikely before the spring of 1978. (Eldon Ball)

LOWER HOG PRICES IN 1976 ...



... TEMPER GAINS IN SOWS FARROWING ...



... WHICH WILL SLOW SECOND HALF GAINS IN PORK OUTPUT



Fed Cattle Marketings To Continue Large Through Spring

Marketings of fed cattle from seven States continued to show an increase during February with beef production up 1 percent from a year earlier. And with record holdings of beef in storage, cattle prices slipped to recent historical lows. Cattle feeders continued to register losses on their feeding operations.

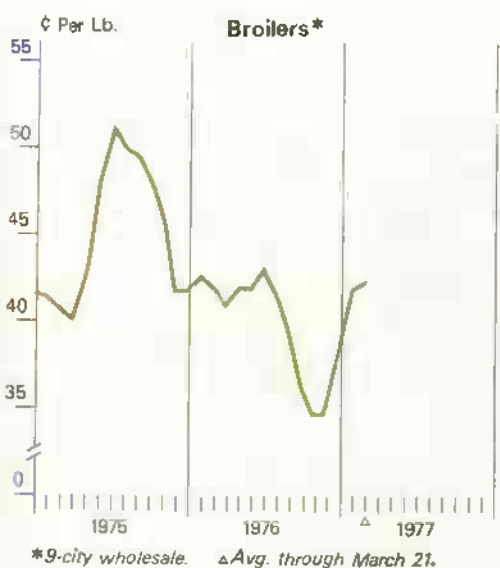
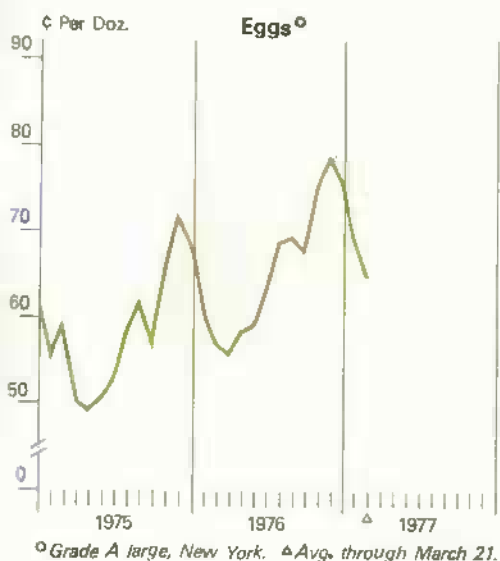
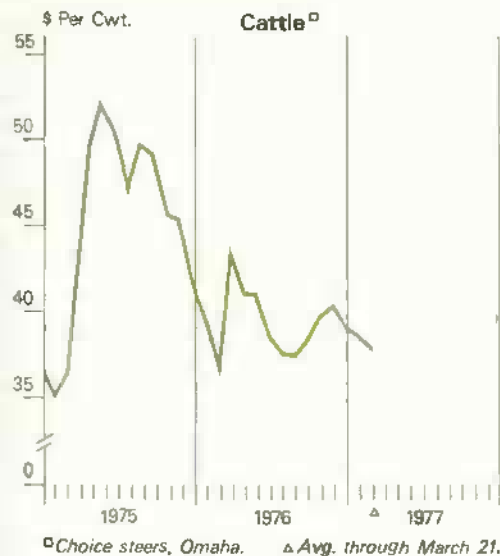
Movement of cattle onto feed was unchanged from January but fell short of year-earlier numbers. On-feed inventories declined. Little increase in placements is anticipated for March. Continued heavy fed marketings will likely cause a small decline in the April 1 inventories of cattle on feed in 23 reporting States. Up to 5 percent more fed cattle may move to market this spring.

The long awaited upturn in fed cattle prices could come this spring. If moisture is adequate for pasture growth, reductions in cow and nonfed slaughter could seasonally reduce total beef supplies by 4 to 5 percent. However, the inventory of heavy yearling cattle on hand April 1 should be up from the previous year, reflecting both the buildup in the inventory of steers and heifers over 500 pounds and the smaller steer and heifer slaughter this winter. If placements during the winter quarter registered only slight gains, a larger percentage of these cattle remain outside feedlots. Weather becomes the critical factor in determining when these cattle move to slaughter.

Although an increasing number of cattle moved onto wheat pasture in March, they are now starting to move to permanent pastures or feedlots. With adequate moisture, a fairly even movement of cattle off summer pastures is anticipated.

The reduced 1976 calf crop, as seen in the inventory of calves under 500 pounds on January 1, points to tighter feeder supplies for the last half of 1977. A substantial cutback in nonfeds would be required to increase feedlot placements above 1976 levels. This is cause for longer term optimism in the cattle industry. (Eldon Ball)

MOST LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCT PRICES EASE



Poultry and Egg Output To Run Higher

Egg production in January lagged a year earlier as the extremely cold weather over much of the Nation caused a drop in output per hen. However, the rate of lay will bounce back in coming months and layer numbers will increase. Layer numbers were down slightly on March 1, but the egg-type hatch indicates 16 percent more pullets will be available for flock replacements in March-June. The increase in replacement pullets will narrow during the second half of 1977 but is expected to remain above 1976. Thus, egg production this spring and summer is likely to run 1 to 2 percent above a year earlier.

Egg prices rose sharply in January as the cold weather caused tight egg supplies. However, as these higher prices were reflected at retail, consumer resistance set in and prices slipped. From late January to late February, wholesale prices for large eggs in New York were down nearly 20 cents a dozen. Spring prices will show their usual seasonal weakness. Second half prices will increase seasonally from spring levels but average well below 1976.

Broiler meat output in federally inspected plants in 1976 rose 13 percent to a record 9 billion pounds (ready-to-cook weight). Despite losses in late 1976 and early 1977, producers continued to raise more broilers. First half 1977 broiler output probably will be around 5 percent above 1976's record output. Prospects for large feed grain and soybean crops would likely result in output

being up 5 percent or more in the second half of 1977.

Broiler prices in early 1977 have gained more than earlier expected as hog prices strengthened and adverse weather disrupted production and marketing. Prices through mid-March have held in the low 40-cents-a-pound range, but prices may ease some this spring. Strong competition from larger than year-ago red meat supplies and increased broiler supplies are expected to result in wholesale broiler prices in nine cities averaging near 40 cents a pound during the first half of 1977. Broiler output may show a moderate increase from 1976 this summer, but prospects for increased consumer incomes and lower total red meat supplies are expected to result in nine-city prices about equal to the 41½-cent average registered in July-September 1976.

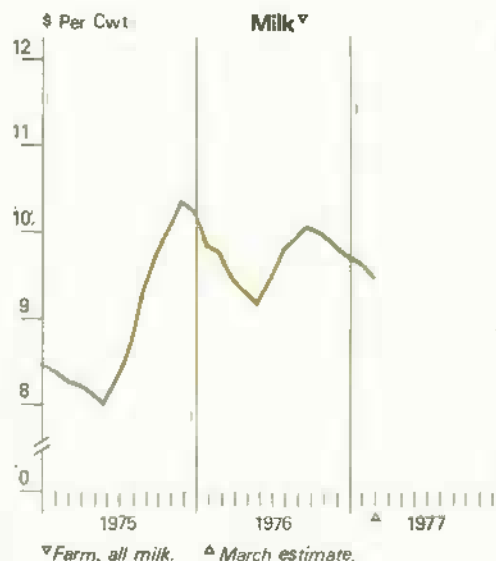
Turkey output in early 1977 ran behind 1976 but has moved above a year earlier in recent weeks. First quarter output will be below 1976, but spring production will show a small gain. However, recent hatchery figures indicate that summer output may again drop below a year ago. Producers in late 1976 reported plans to raise a few more turkeys this year, but they may change their plans if profit margins continue unfavorable as the heavy hatching season approaches.

Wholesale prices for 8- to 16-pound young hen turkeys at New York averaged nearly 49 cents a pound in 1976, down 4 cents from 1975. Prices in early 1977 have been running above a year earlier, but activity in turkey markets has been seasonally slow. Prices during the first half of this year may average near the 49-cent level of a year earlier. Later this year, increased consumer income and reduced red meat supplies would likely lead to higher than year-earlier turkey prices. (William Cathcart and Gerald Rector)

Dairy Support Price Raised

The support price for manufacturing milk was increased to \$9 per 100 pounds effective April 1, the beginning of the 1977/78 dairy marketing year. This support price, at an estimated 83 percent of parity, is up 74 cents from the \$8.26 in effect since last October and up 87 cents from the \$8.13 support set last April 1.

The new support level will be



reviewed again in 6 months to determine if further adjustments are needed to carry out legislative objectives. Legislation requires that milk be supported at a level between 75 and 90 percent of parity to assure an adequate supply of milk, to reflect changes in the cost of production, and to assure a level of farm income adequate to maintain productive capacity sufficient to meet anticipated future needs.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) stands ready to purchase—and thus remove from the commercial market—butter, cheddar cheese, and nonfat dry milk to support average prices received by farmers for manufacturing grade milk. CCC purchases prices were increased 10 cents for butter to \$1.0275 a pound at New York, 5.5 cents for cheddar cheese to 98 cents a pound, and 5.6 cents for unfortified nonfat dry milk to 68 cents a pound. In addition, a support purchase price for American cheese in fiber barrels was established at 95 cents a pound.

Milk Production Up 2 to 3 Percent This Year

The increase in the support price for milk means that farm milk prices in 1977 probably will average moderately higher than in 1976, compared with an anticipated decline had the support price not been increased.

This assurance of higher milk prices likely will lead to continued high levels of concentrate feeding and substantial increases in output per cow. It may also offset the impact of expected higher cull cow prices and keep the declines in milk cow numbers relatively small.

Milk production this year is now expected to rise 2 to 3 percent from 1976 if yields of feed crops are within normal ranges. In the event of drought this summer and resultant high feed costs, the increase in the price support level could forestall a sharp drop in milk output.

Although the increase in the support price will raise retail dairy prices, the 1977 increase from a year earlier probably still will be smaller than during 1976 and generally in line with the increase in prices of all foods. Under these price conditions, commercial use of dairy products likely will remain strong, after rising 2 percent in 1976 to a record high. Rising consumer purchasing power and expected higher beef prices probably will

result in increased cheese sales but butter sales could slip. Fluid milk sales may hold about the same as last year.

Even with strong sales, the anticipated increases in milk output, combined with the current high commercial stocks, would result in substantial government purchases during most of 1977. This year's burdensome stocks are in sharp contrast to a year ago when the very large quantities which were required to bring commercial stocks back to comfortable seasonal levels provided a major force holding market prices above support levels. (James Miller)

Soybean Prices Hit New Season Highs

In recent weeks, prices for the entire soybean complex—beans, oil, and meal—have risen to new season highs. Since early February, prices for soybeans at Chicago spurted from \$7 per bushel to around \$8.60 in late March. Soybean oil prices at Decatur moved from around 22 cents per pound to 29 cents. Soybean meal prices at Decatur rose from around \$210 per ton to over \$225. Continuing strong demand for these commodities and the reduced 1976/77 soybean supply are major factors behind the strong price pattern.

Despite the higher prices, disappearance of soybean meal—both domestically and for export—is running near last season's high level. And despite larger supplies of cottonseed oil and lard, domestic disappearance of soybean oil is down moderately from a year ago, while exports are up sharply. Thus, prices for soybeans and products are expected to continue strong into the spring.

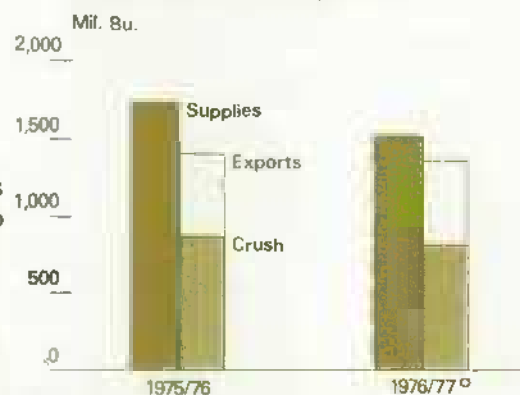
This summer, prices will be highly influenced by prospects for the 1977 soybean crop. For the current season, soybean prices received by farmers are expected to average about \$2 above the \$4.92 per bushel of last season. Soybean oil prices should average well above the 18 cents per pound and soybean meal prices should average sharply above the \$148 per ton of last year.

Although total soybean supplies are some 220 million bushels below last year, use so far this season is running above year-ago levels. Both domestic crushings and exports are up. Because of tight supplies, utilization over the balance of the marketing year will need to be cut back significantly—possibly a tenth or so. Total soybean disappearance is estimated at about 1.45 billion bushels, or around 180 million bushels above the 1976 crop.

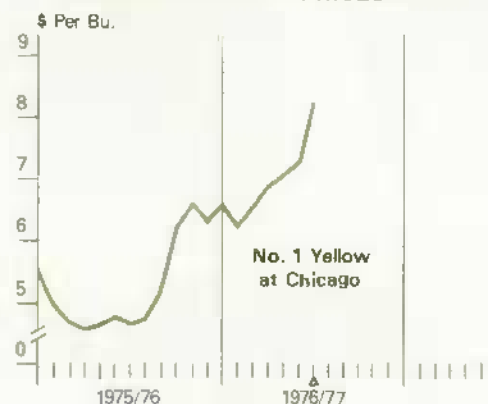
Consequently, carryover stocks of soybeans this coming September will be drawn down to near bedrock levels—possibly in the area of 65 million bushels. This is about a 2-weeks' supply at current usage rates and would be down sharply from the 245 million bushels of last September. The soybean situation will become increasingly tight until new crop beans move to market in volume late in September.

The Brazilian government imposed a

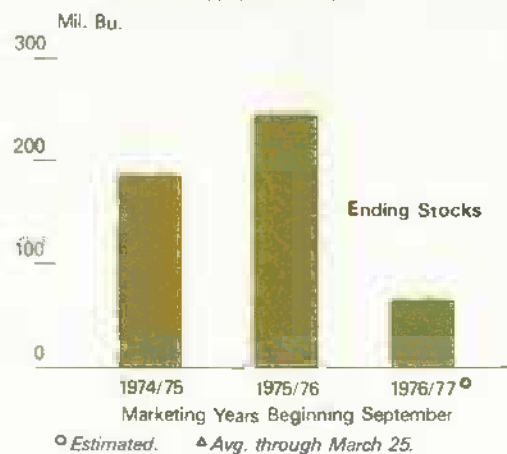
REDUCED SOYBEAN SUPPLIES AND STRONG DEMAND . . .



. . . BOOST SOYBEAN PRICES . . .



. . . PULL DOWN STOCKS



○ Estimated. ▲ Avg. through March 25.

7-percent export tax on soybeans on March 23 and, at the same time, announced the resumption of soybean product exports after a 2-week suspension to set up the tax system. The tax does not directly affect the quantity of soybeans and products exported or export market prices. However, the tax does signal the government's intention to take measures necessary to insure that the needs of the domestic market are met.

The 1977 Brazilian soybean crop is currently estimated at 12.3 million metric tons, up a tenth from last year but down some from earlier expectations.

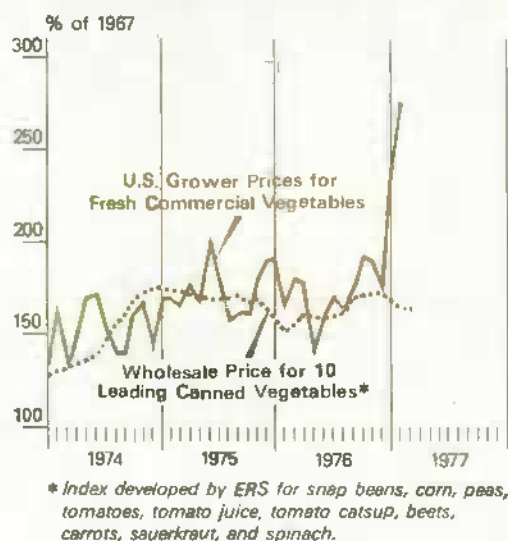
In early January, farmers indicated intentions to plant about 53 million acres of soybeans this spring, up about 6 percent. However, the recent runup in soybean prices has made the soybean/corn price ratio even more attractive to beans—it now stands at about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. If this price pattern continues, actual soybean planted acreage could increase substantially above last year—possibly ranging between 55 and 58 million acres. Also, the weather this spring and summer will influence soybean acreage and yields.

Soybean production in 1977 could range between 1.3 billion and 1.6 billion bushels. Even with a good crop, the 1977/78 soybean situation would continue relatively tight. (Stanley A. Gazelle)

Fresh Vegetable Prices Up Sharply

Fresh market vegetable prices advanced to record levels in January and February, but with the effects of the Florida freeze behind us, prices to growers are expected to fall during April and May. By mid-March cabbage supplies became much more liberal—especially from northern Florida—and by mid-April, all the more tender vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and snap beans should return to the market in more normal quantities for this time of year. But a delayed crop of Texas onions caused prices to rise late in March. In some past years, when vegetable harvests were weather-delayed, there tended to be some squeezing together of later harvest dates, causing temporary oversupply conditions. This could happen to several vegetable crops this spring, especially along the Atlantic Seaboard and in States across the South to Texas.

FRESH VEGETABLE PRICES SHOOT UP



The ERS index of canned vegetable prices showed some weakness in February and March but only because a few tomato product packers reduced prices to stimulate movement. But with the prospect of a smaller and more costly 1977 tomato pack, these cuts are expected to be temporary. Canned vegetable prices trended upward slowly but steadily through most of 1976. Slow but steady price rises are expected to continue through 1977 as supplies fall more in line with expected trade needs.

Acreage of peas and sweet corn may also be reduced this coming season, but

there could be increased planting of several vegetables for freezing. Current stocks of frozen green beans, lima beans, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, and spinach are well below a year earlier. The two leading frozen items present a mixed stocks picture—about the same amount of corn but fewer peas.

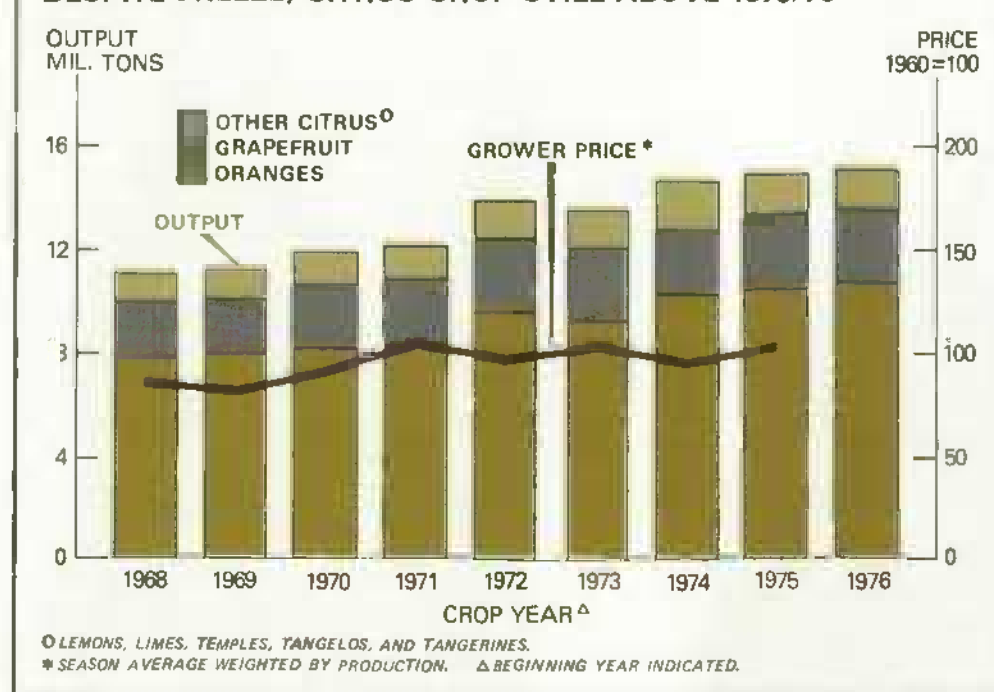
Spring potato acreage for harvest is 8 percent smaller than a year earlier but larger than 2 years earlier. With heavy storage stocks on hand in the Pacific Northwest and with a reduced rate of export movement, prices may still be under some downward pressure into the month of May. Much of the spring acreage cut comes in the important Kern County area of California where acreage has been reduced by 14 percent. U.S. spring potato production usually accounts for 6 to 7 percent of U.S. annual output. (Charles Porter and Joseph Podany)

Citrus Crop Still Slightly Above Last Year

On March 1, total U. S. citrus production was estimated to be 15.0 million tons, down 1 percent from the February 1 estimate but still 2 percent above the 1975/76 crop. Nearly all of the reduction was due to the carryover effects of the freezing weather that dipped into Florida on January 18-20.

The U.S. orange crop was forecast at 245 million boxes, down 2 percent from

DESPITE FREEZE, CITRUS CROP STILL ABOVE 1975/76



the February 1 estimate but 1 percent above the 1975/76 crop. Florida's freeze-damaged crop is now estimated at 181 million boxes, 1 percent less than the February 1 estimate and slightly less than last year. However, the yield of frozen concentrated orange juice will be down approximately 13 percent. The orange juice yield for 1976/77 is projected at 1.12 gallons of 45 degree Brix concentrate per box. Final yield from the 1975/76 crop was 1.29 gallons per box. All of this reduction in juice yield is attributable to the freeze damage.

Due to the reduced volume of fresh market quality fruit in Florida, f.o.b. prices for fresh oranges and grapefruit increased from mid-January levels. There was also some advance in shipping point prices for oranges and grapefruit in Texas and California due to smaller supplies of fresh citrus from Florida. The March 1 estimate of the U.S. grapefruit crop at 70 million boxes, unchanged from a month earlier, is slightly less than last year.

California-Arizona lemon production is forecast at nearly 27 million boxes. This is less than the record large crop of 1974/75 but 49 percent more than last season. Through February of this season, fresh on-tree returns to growers averaged less than one-half of a year earlier. (Jules Powell and Ben Huang)

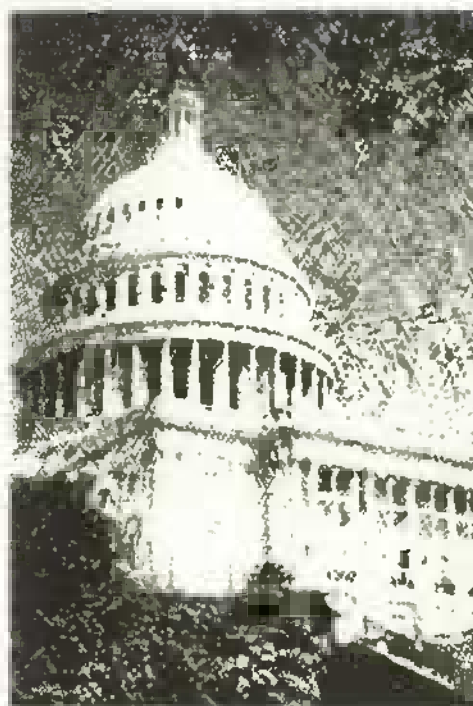
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Policy Developments

Target prices for 1977 crops were recently announced by USDA, and at least two bills have been introduced to increase support prices for 1977 crops. Support rates proposed by House bill 33, reviewed in last month's issue of *Agricultural Outlook*, can be compared with those of a new Senate bill, S. 746. USDA's legislative proposal and another House bill, H.R. 3574, join the proposals for broad farm program legislation to become effective with the 1978 crop and can be compared with the three bills reviewed in last month's issue.

1977 Target Prices Announced

USDA recently announced target prices for the 1977 crops of wheat, feed grains, and upland cotton. The 1977 loan rates for wheat, feed grains, and soy-

TARGET PRICES

Crop	1976	1977
Wheat (\$/bu.)	2.29	2.47
Corn (\$/bu.)	1.57	1.70
Sorghum (\$/bu.)	1.49	1.62
Barley (\$/bu.)	1.28	1.39
Upland cotton (cts./lb.)	43.2	47.8

TARGET PRICES AND MINIMUM LOAN RATES FOR 1977 CROPS

Item	1973 Act	S.746	H.R. 33 ¹
Target prices:			
Wheat (\$/bu.)	2.47	3.55	² 2.55
Corn (\$/bu.)	1.70	2.52	¹ 1.70
Cotton (cts./lb.)	47.8	57.95	² 48
Loan rates:			
Wheat (\$/bu.)	2.25	3.02	² 2.81
Corn (\$/bu.)	1.50	2.14	² 1.12
Cotton (cts./lb.)	42.58	49.26	¹ 42

¹ Loan rates set at 80 percent of 3-year average farm price (target prices become ineffective when exceeded by loan rates). ² Estimated.

beans are being reviewed and will be finalized at a later date.

Target prices guarantee eligible producers a supported price for production from their share of the national allotment for the program crops and are also used to determine disaster payments. If the national average market price falls below the target price for a specified period (the first 5 months of the marketing year for wheat and feed grains, all 12 months of the calendar year for cotton), producers receive a deficiency payment equal to the difference between the target price and the market price. Market prices have exceeded target prices for wheat, feed grains, and upland cotton since the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 became effective.

Target prices are adjusted annually to reflect increases in producers' costs, indicated by the index of prices paid by farmers for production items, interest, taxes, and wages, as well as changes in the 3-year moving average of crop yields.

TARGET PRICES AND MINIMUM LOAN RATES FOR 1978 CROPS

Item	1973 Act	S.203	S.275	H.R. 33 ¹	H.R. 3574 ²	Administration's proposal
Target prices:						
Wheat (\$/bu.)	³ 2.58	3.10	2.91	³ 2.58	—	⁴ 2.60
Corn (\$/bu.)	³ 1.70	2.25	2.28	³ 1.70	—	⁴ 1.75
Cotton (cts./lb.)	² 49	48	51.1	³ 49	—	⁴ 47.5
Loan rates:						
Wheat (\$/bu.)	1.37	2.25	2.18	³ 2.38	³ 2.53	2.25
Corn (\$/bu.)	1.10	1.87	1.71	³ 1.84	³ 1.76	2.00
Cotton (cts./lb.)	³ 44	38	38.33	³ 48	³ 46	51

¹ Loan rates set at 80 percent of 3-year average farm price (target prices become ineffective when exceeded by loan rates). ² Loan rates at 80 percent of cost of production. ³ Estimated. ⁴ Income support levels.

Administration's Farm Bill Proposal

In presenting the Administration's proposal to Congress, the Secretary recommended a 4-year farm program in which income support rates for all major commodities cover variable, machinery ownership, and overhead costs, as well as a return for management and a return to land ownership equivalent to 1.5 percent of current land prices. Changes in the target rates after 1978 would be adjusted by changes in only variable, machinery, overhead costs, and yields.

USDA also recommended that acreage allotments be eliminated but that authority be retained for the Secretary of Agriculture to set aside acreage when supplies are excessive, with set-aside acreage geared to plantings in the current or preceding year. As a further part of the Farm Bill package, the Department recommended a 1-year extension of the current Disaster Payment Program while a national insurance scheme was being studied and developed. It was also suggested that the Emergency Feed Program authority to designate emergency feed areas be transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture from the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration.

Proposals For PL-480

The Administration has proposed the extension with some modifications of Public Law 480 (Food for Peace). The law now requires that at least 75 percent of Title I commodities be allocated to countries with per capita GNP's of \$300 or less. An amendment would raise this poverty level to that established for the World Bank's International Development Association credits—currently \$520 (in 1975 U.S. dollars).

The proposal would also allow the President to waive the 75-percent requirement if an allocation of commodities on that basis could not be used by the recipient countries according to the humanitarian purposes of Title I.

Other suggested changes include:

—An increase in the maximum annual allocation for Title II from \$600 million to \$750 million. This could help the United States meet the objectives set at the World Food Conference.

—An amendment permitting reimbursement to the Commodity Credit Corporation at export market prices rather than at the higher acquisition prices. This applies to Government-owned commodities made available

under Title II and would be expected to increase the quantity available and reduce storage costs.

—An amendment to the criteria for determining the availability of commodities so that, in times of limited supplies, additional food supplies can be provided to meet disaster needs and multiyear food aid commitments.

Emergency Bill

For 1977 Proposed

Senator McGovern (D-S. Dakota) introduced on February 21 a bill to provide emergency price and income protection to farmers for the 1977 crops. The bill, S. 746, would set target prices at the full cost of production (with land at current value) and loan rates at 85 percent of the cost of production.

The current payment limitation of \$20,000 would be raised to \$30,000, while dairy price supports would be increased to a minimum of 90 percent of parity and adjusted quarterly. Wool and mohair would also be supported at not less than 90 percent of parity. Disaster payments would continue to be available as in current legislation but would be larger because of the higher target prices.

House of Representatives Bill 3574

Congressman Harkin (D-Iowa) introduced on February 16 a bill to replace the current Act, which expires at the end of the 1977 crop year. Extending through 1982, his bill would eliminate target prices and would base supports on non-recourse loans set at between 80 and 110 percent of the cost of production (land valued as a composite of cash rent, share rent, and average acquisition value) for wheat, feed grains, cotton, and soybeans.

Producers would be limited to \$100,000 in loans annually, and the Secretary of Agriculture could demand repayment of loans whenever market prices exceeded 140 percent of the cost of production. The Secretary would have the authority to extend loans after the first year for 5 additional years, and USDA would pay storage and interest costs for those years. Dairy price supports would be increased to not less than 85 percent of parity and adjusted quarterly. Current allotments and bases would be replaced with allotments based on the average acreage planted for harvest on the farm during the preceding 2 crop years.

The bill would also extend the Rice Production Act of 1975 through the 1982 crop year and would maintain the following programs without change: wool; milk marketing orders; the authority to make dairy products available to veterans' hospitals and the military; the authority for indemnity payments to dairy farmers and beekeepers for losses due to pesticides; PL-480; food stamps; and the authority for the purchase and donation of agricultural commodities with appropriated funds. The bill would expand the Commodity Credit Corporation loan program for farm storage facilities by requiring a down payment of not more than 20 percent of the construction costs and would amend the Agricultural Conservation Program to emphasize conservation and environmental enhancement measures. (Cecil Davison)



Inputs

No major problems are anticipated in supplying farmers with adequate fertilizer materials for the spring of 1977, despite curtailments of natural gas to ammonia plants during the winter.

The curtailments to ammonia producers in some States may result in a reduction of output equivalent to 750,000 tons of ammonia. However, this loss will be more than offset by capacity increases coming on line, a larger carryover, and net imports of nitrogen fertilizer materials—which appear to be equivalent to

225,000 tons of nitrogen.

On balance, the net supply of nitrogen material available for the 1976/77 fertilizer year would appear to be close to 11 million tons, about 5 percent more than in the previous year.

Estimates of nitrogen use for 1976/77 are near 10.3 million tons, about the same as in the previous year—pointing to a buildup in the carryover. However, if dry weather continues into the major planting season, fertilizer demand may soften and actual consumption may drop.

The freezing of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in late January and early February halted barge traffic, and some tankers were diverted from ammonia rail tankers to haul liquid propane gas during the severely cold period. However, this situation has been largely self-correcting. No substantial bottlenecks have occurred in the transportation system that would impair delivery to retail outlets and create shortages during spring planting. Some potash and phosphate producers have had difficulty obtaining rail cars; however, these problems do not appear to be large enough to impact on the total supply of material to farm operators.

Given the current supply-demand balance, price increases posted by some manufacturers in February and early March may not hold through the planting season. Discounting may become widespread later in the season, especially for nitrogen materials. (Robert Reinsel)

Farmland Prices Move Higher

Farmland prices continue moving upward—although some slowdown from the 17-percent gain recorded for the February 1976-February 1977 period seems likely in the months ahead. However,

any development—weather or otherwise—that pushes up corn prices or keeps soybean prices strong will fuel continued gains in land prices.

Average farmland values are now up to \$456 an acre compared with \$430 last November and \$390 a year ago. Acreage in the Corn Belt carries some of the

highest price tags in the Nation, reflecting the strong demand there for land for farm enlargement. Only in the Northeast are prices higher than in the Corn Belt—owing to the strong demand there for residential and commercial uses of farmland. (Larry Walker and John Jones)

FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES¹

State	Mar. 1971	Mar. 1972	Mar. 1973	Mar. 1974	Mar. 1975	Feb. 1976	Nov. 1976	Feb. 1977 ²
	Dol.							
NORTHEAST								
Maine ³	187	218	255	306	345	373	393	405
New Hampshire ³	286	341	407	498	570	617	650	669
Vermont ³	256	295	341	402	452	489	515	530
Massachusetts ³	623	693	775	886	976	1,054	1,111	1,143
Rhode Island ³	854	997	1,166	1,392	1,578	1,707	1,799	1,852
Connecticut ³	1,034	1,171	1,332	1,549	1,725	1,866	1,967	2,024
New York	288	325	359	452	520	560	575	591
New Jersey	1,135	1,232	1,352	1,611	1,850	2,051	2,051	2,051
Pennsylvania	393	422	497	631	747	830	927	1,000
Delaware	553	564	640	800	956	1,138	1,272	1,322
Maryland	688	736	851	994	1,078	1,300	1,361	1,371
LAKE STATES								
Michigan	333	373	450	530	563	615	710	782
Wisconsin	255	275	331	394	441	498	559	591
Minnesota	231	241	270	341	436	530	591	664
CORN BELT								
Ohio	416	439	506	630	711	861	1,032	1,131
Indiana	423	436	496	596	726	886	1,071	1,167
Illinois	494	523	570	728	857	1,066	1,345	1,450
Iowa	392	414	467	600	725	911	1,103	1,228
Missouri	236	261	294	385	399	449	488	529
NORTHERN PLAINS								
North Dakota	95	99	110	146	196	229	245	258
South Dakota	85	87	94	120	146	164	182	188
Nebraska	157	170	194	244	285	359	399	407
Kansas	162	174	200	256	301	335	366	381
APPALACHIAN								
Virginia	309	345	392	502	560	623	627	677
West Virginia	151	174	206	266	305	383	401	401
North Carolina	372	398	466	560	603	648	654	684
Kentucky	268	297	330	391	435	512	542	603
Tennessee	277	303	349	421	477	507	539	556
SOUTHEAST								
South Carolina	277	316	340	425	475	494	510	541
Georgia	256	292	333	432	486	488	499	524
Florida ⁴	378	404	466	613	692	732	747	783
Alabama	227	238	270	337	370	410	424	437
DELTA								
Mississippi	238	242	271	344	386	388	388	411
Arkansas	255	297	339	409	421	470	505	527
Louisiana	350	382	406	474	518	545	572	590
SOUTHERN PLAINS								
Oklahoma	183	195	221	267	307	339	356	374
Texas	156	174	199	248	252	278	296	298
MOUNTAIN								
Montana	63	68	76	97	114	134	143	154
Idaho	188	206	230	289	343	373	404	419
Wyoming	42	48	56	72	84	98	104	105
Colorado	103	116	139	179	193	225	249	262
New Mexico	46	51	59	77	82	86	91	95
Arizona	77	89	96	119	120	123	126	129
Utah	111	132	146	179	197	222	231	246
Nevada	60	69	79	92	92	94	94	94
PACIFIC								
Washington	224	239	276	313	358	428	454	500
Oregon	168	189	209	240	258	274	279	288
California	471	495	511	581	669	684	692	686
48 STATES	202	218	245	303	343	390	430	456

¹ March 1971-November 1976 revised on the basis of the 1974 Census of Agriculture. ² Preliminary. ³ The average rate of change for the 6 New England States was used to project dollar values for each of these States.

⁴ Values are based upon the average percentage change in the Georgia and Alabama index.

APRIL SITUATION REPORT SCHEDULE

Situation reports which will be released by USDA's Outlook and Situation Board this month include:

Title	Off Press
Livestock & Meat	April 13
Agriculture Supply & Demand	April 22
Cotton & Wool	April 28

Single copies of the above reports may be obtained by writing to: ERS Publications Unit, Room 0054, South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Statistical Indicators

Farm Income

Gross and net farm income¹

Items	Annual			1974			1975				1976 ³			
	1974	1975	1976	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
	\$ Bil.													
Cash receipts from farm marketings	92.6	89.6	94.8	90.0	89.3	91.7	80.0	91.1	96.5	90.8	92.4	101.8	93.8	91.3
Nonmoney and other farm income ²	7.6	8.6	9.4	7.5	7.7	7.8	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.8	9.1	9.3	9.5	9.6
Realized gross farm income	100.2	98.2	104.2	97.5	97.0	99.5	88.4	99.6	105.2	99.6	101.5	111.1	103.3	100.9
Farm production expenses	72.4	75.5	80.9	71.5	72.7	72.8	73.4	76.1	76.8	75.7	79.0	82.5	81.5	80.6
Farmers' realized net income	27.8	22.7	23.3	26.0	24.3	26.7	15.0	23.5	28.4	23.9	22.5	28.6	21.8	20.3
Net change in farm inventories	-1.3	2.9	-1.3	-.8	0	-2.9	3.5	1.3	1.6	5.2	0	-3.0	-1.0	-1.0
Farmers' total net income	26.5	25.6	22.0	25.2	24.3	23.8	18.5	24.8	30.0	29.1	22.5	25.6	20.8	19.3

¹ Quarterly data are seasonally adjusted at annual rates. ² Includes government payments to farmers, value of farm products consumed in farm households, rental value of farm dwellings, and income from recreation, machine hire, and custom work. ³ Data for 1976 has been updated based on more complete information. All data subject to revision in June 1977.

Cash receipts from farming

Items	Annual			1976						1977
	1974	1975	1976	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
	\$ Mil.									
Farm marketings and CCC loans ¹	92,648	89,563	94,793	8,103	7,808	8,108	10,390	9,811	8,503	8,747
Livestock and products	41,377	42,902	46,991	3,844	3,990	3,997	4,078	3,798	3,695	3,645
Meat animals	25,193	25,811	27,967	2,270	2,317	2,383	2,469	2,294	2,161	2,086
Dairy products	9,445	9,866	11,391	957	975	932	936	878	914	946
Poultry and eggs	6,253	6,739	7,100	578	654	641	632	587	562	574
Other	486	486	533	39	44	41	41	39	58	39
Crops	51,271	46,661	47,802	4,259	3,818	4,111	6,312	6,013	4,808	5,102
Food grains	8,762	8,347	6,661	532	685	623	513	310	271	369
Feed crops	13,958	12,513	13,216	1,395	981	1,057	1,413	1,561	1,379	1,687
Cotton (lint and seed)	2,893	2,372	3,383	509	81	104	577	833	823	700
Tobacco	2,097	2,155	3,270	281	424	428	300	250	321	208
Oil-bearing crops	9,817	7,920	9,201	717	486	496	2,083	1,581	862	1,291
Vegetables and melons	5,308	5,370	5,205	325	606	710	609	360	308	366
Fruits and tree nuts	3,424	3,548	3,518	206	295	351	417	385	301	202
Other	5,012	4,436	4,348	294	260	342	400	733	542	279
Government payments	530	807	712	83	71	56	69	90	131	97
Total cash receipts ²	93,178	90,370	95,505	8,186	7,879	8,164	10,459	9,901	8,634	8,844

¹ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month. ² Details may not add because of rounding.

Farm marketing indexes (physical volume)

Items	Annual			1976						1977
	1974	1975	1976	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
	1967=100									
All commodities	111	115	121	124	121	127	164	157	139	130
Livestock and products	104	106	113	107	116	118	129	120	124	108
Crops	121	128	132	147	128	138	211	209	158	159

Cash receipts¹ from farm marketings, by States, January

State	Livestock and Products		Crops ²		Total ²	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
			\$ Mil. ³			
NORTH ATLANTIC						
Maine	21.5	23.3	19.8	13.5	41.4	36.8
New Hampshire	5.0	4.5	1.5	1.8	6.5	6.3
Vermont	20.9	19.1	.9	1.2	21.8	20.4
Massachusetts	10.5	10.3	15.3	15.3	25.8	25.6
Rhode Island	1.1	1.0	.6	.9	1.7	1.9
Connecticut	12.8	12.4	33.5	35.3	46.3	47.7
New York	100.7	96.6	36.9	43.5	137.6	140.1
New Jersey	10.1	9.3	8.0	10.1	18.0	19.4
Pennsylvania	109.7	110.5	51.4	50.9	161.1	161.4
NORTH CENTRAL						
Ohio	105.7	99.9	102.2	186.2	207.9	286.2
Indiana	101.7	92.9	164.3	293.4	266.1	386.3
Illinois	166.3	146.7	549.6	758.7	715.9	905.4
Michigan	68.1	66.4	84.6	75.0	152.7	141.4
Wisconsin	212.1	206.7	54.9	37.5	266.9	244.1
Minnesota	187.8	177.0	111.0	156.3	298.8	333.4
Iowa	336.3	301.8	300.2	461.3	636.5	763.1
Missouri	119.9	108.0	73.8	121.5	193.6	229.5
North Dakota	41.6	40.3	81.3	58.0	122.9	98.2
South Dakota	147.2	137.4	39.2	25.2	186.5	162.6
Nebraska	169.0	160.2	189.0	210.2	358.0	370.4
Kansas	165.2	149.7	134.0	158.1	299.2	307.8
SOUTHERN						
Delaware	13.4	13.5	4.3	5.3	17.8	18.7
Maryland	36.7	34.9	8.7	12.3	45.4	47.2
Virginia	41.8	41.7	25.2	22.8	67.0	64.6
West Virginia	7.5	7.1	4.2	6.1	11.7	13.2
North Carolina	84.6	83.1	33.4	52.6	118.1	135.7
South Carolina	26.5	24.5	27.1	36.3	53.6	60.8
Georgia	100.6	98.1	48.9	41.1	149.5	139.2
Florida	57.9	56.2	244.0	230.6	301.8	286.8
Kentucky	52.9	51.2	189.9	183.2	242.8	234.4
Tennessee	54.8	54.9	41.5	52.8	96.3	107.7
Alabama	72.3	71.4	30.0	45.4	102.3	116.8
Mississippi	59.7	58.8	95.6	154.5	155.3	213.3
Arkansas	83.7	86.2	115.0	90.9	198.8	177.1
Louisiana	30.2	31.3	79.8	88.7	110.0	120.0
Oklahoma	112.4	106.2	57.8	52.8	170.2	159.0
Texas	251.1	241.2	370.9	512.2	622.0	753.4
WESTERN						
Montana	30.1	30.5	54.2	33.9	84.3	64.4
Idaho	48.9	44.9	63.9	58.8	112.8	103.7
Wyoming	14.5	14.2	12.0	5.1	26.6	19.3
Colorado	120.7	112.2	43.9	40.0	164.6	152.2
New Mexico	27.1	24.2	16.4	16.9	43.5	41.1
Arizona	44.4	41.7	73.5	100.9	117.9	142.6
Utah	18.8	17.1	8.5	7.2	27.3	24.3
Nevada	10.2	9.4	4.2	5.0	14.3	14.4
Washington	44.4	41.7	98.9	91.9	143.3	133.6
Oregon	32.4	31.0	46.8	39.1	79.2	70.1
California	247.7	238.8	393.8	386.7	641.5	625.6
Alaska .....	.2	.3	.1	.1	.3	.3
Hawaii	5.1	5.0	14.9	14.9	20.1	19.9
UNITED STATES						
Grand Total	3,843.8	3,645.2	4,259.5	5,102.0	8,103.3	8,747.2

¹ Estimates as of the first of current month. ² Sales of farm products include receipts from loans reported minus value of redemptions during the period. ³ Rounded data may not add.

Farm Prices: Received and Paid

Indexes of prices received and paid by farmers, U.S. average

Items	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
	1967=100									
Prices Received										
All farm products	192	186	186	187	187	178	173	179	183	187
All crops	224	201	198	193	204	195	187	192	198	202
Food grains	300	242	201	233	185	169	161	157	160	161
Feed grains and hay	243	230	218	216	226	207	185	199	207	206
Feed grains	249	232	214	214	223	201	177	193	201	199
Cotton	228	183	267	230	287	278	289	281	277	286
Tobacco	148	162	163	158	177	171	170	174	173	172
Oil-bearing crops	232	195	205	170	239	217	223	237	245	250
Fruit	141	140	134	130	130	159	133	126	119	122
Fresh market ¹	136	135	133	129	128	164	132	123	110	113
Commercial vegetables	143	164	162	157	165	175	173	164	203	227
Fresh market	152	173	172	163	176	191	189	172	235	272
Potatoes ²	290	214	207	233	161	150	158	190	168	179
Livestock and products	165	172	177	183	172	165	162	168	170	174
Meat animals	165	169	170	178	161	150	145	155	158	163
Dairy products	166	174	193	194	196	199	197	194	192	190
Poultry and eggs	163	179	179	186	182	174	176	184	183	192
Prices Paid										
Commodities and services, interest, taxes, and wage rates	166	180	192	191	193	192	192	193	198	200
Production items	166	182	193	192	194	192	191	193	196	199
Feed	194	187	191	183	200	192	186	193	197	200
Feeder livestock	148	134	154	160	142	143	141	143	142	153
Interest payable per acre on farm real estate debt	235	281	303	303	303	303	303	303	328	328
Taxes on farm real estate	154	162	176	176	176	176	176	176	186	186
Wage rates (seasonally adjusted)	178	192	210	213	213	206	206	206	229	229
Production items, interest, taxes, and wage rates	172	187	199	199	200	198	197	199	204	207
Prices received (1910-14=100)	481	464	466	468	468	446	433	448	457	467
Prices paid, etc. (Parity index) (1910-14=100)	564	614	653	648	657	652	652	657	673	679
Parity ratio	85	76	71	72	71	68	66	68	68	69

¹ Fresh market for noncitrus and fresh market and processing for citrus. ² Includes sweetpotatoes and dry edible beans.

Prices received by farmers, U.S. average

Commodities	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Crops										
All wheat (\$/bu.)	4.48	3.68	3.14	3.66	2.88	2.59	2.46	2.39	2.43	2.44
Rice, rough (\$/cwt.)	13.94	10.12	6.90	7.54	6.56	6.48	6.46	6.57	6.79	6.74p
Corn (\$/bu.)	2.92	2.70	2.49	2.48	2.60	2.33	2.02	2.24	2.34	2.31p
Sorghum (\$/cwt.)	4.59	4.31	4.01	4.09	4.20	3.68	3.30	3.51	3.59	3.53p
All hay, baled (\$/ton)	49.10	51.40	58.00	54.30	60.80	60.10	59.00	59.00	60.90	62.70
Soybeans (\$/bu.)	6.42	5.24	5.58	4.50	6.65	5.90	6.11	6.56	6.81	6.99p
Cotton, Upland (cts./lb.)	51.3	41.2	59.9	51.7	64.5	62.5	65.2	63.1	62.3	64.4p
Potatoes (\$/cwt.)	5.70	4.04	4.13	4.64	3.08	3.05	2.99	3.06	3.40	3.56
Dry edible beans (\$/cwt.)	32.30	20.30	16.50	18.70	15.20	14.30	15.30	14.50	14.10	16.00
Apples for fresh use (cts./lb.)	10.9	11.5	10.2	8.1	13.2	12.6	11.6	11.3	11.1	11.1
Pears for fresh use (\$/ton)	¹ 200	¹ 169	184	190	155	207	182	173	159	145
Oranges, all uses (\$/box) ²	1.99	1.77	1.79	1.93	1.04	2.03	1.61	1.17	.82	.86
Grapefruit, all uses (\$/box) ²	1.63	1.75	1.74	1.25	2.20	4.33	1.44	1.47	1.13	1.85
Livestock										
Beef cattle (\$/cwt.)	35.80	32.20	33.80	34.20	32.40	31.80	31.10	32.10	32.30	33.10
Calves (\$/cwt.)	38.60	26.90	34.70	34.40	33.10	33.10	32.20	32.90	33.70	35.60
Hogs (\$/cwt.)	34.30	47.60	42.90	47.90	39.70	32.90	31.10	36.30	38.00	39.30
Lambs (\$/cwt.)	37.40	42.10	47.40	46.80	41.80	42.70	41.60	44.60	48.50	49.50
All milk, sold to plants (\$/cwt.)	8.34	8.78	9.68	9.79	9.87	10.00	9.94	9.75	9.65	9.58p
Milk, manuf. grade (\$/cwt.)	7.15	7.71	8.58	8.45	8.64	8.53	8.57	8.55	8.48	8.43p
Broilers (cts./lb.)	21.8	26.2	23.2	25.2	23.1	20.9	19.3	19.3	21.5	24.0
Eggs (cts./doz.) ³	53.0	52.8	59.4	59.8	62.1	60.8	65.3	69.5	65.1	66.2
Turkeys (cts./lb.)	28.8	33.6	31.7	32.1	30.5	30.7	30.8	33.3	32.4	32.5
Wool (cts./lb.) ⁴	58.2	44.3	65.4	53.1	68.8	76.7	73.3	68.8	75.1	73.0

¹ Eleven month average. ² Equivalent on-tree returns. ³ Average of all eggs sold by farmers, including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. ⁴ Average local market price, excluding incentive payments. p Preliminary.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Wholesale Price Index, U.S. average (not seasonally adjusted)

Commodity group	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
	1967=100									
All commodities	160.1	174.9	182.9	179.3	184.7	185.2	185.6	187.1	188.0	190.0
Industrial commodities	153.8	171.5	182.3	178.0	184.7	186.3	187.0	187.4	188.4	189.9
All foods ¹	174.4	186.0	178.9	179.7	176.5	175.4	174.1	178.5	179.2	183.0
Farm products and processed foods and feeds	177.4	184.2	183.1	182.0	182.7	179.4	178.4	183.9	184.8	188.4
Farm products	187.7	186.7	191.1	191.0	191.8	186.6	183.6	191.6	193.5	199.0
Fruits and vegetables ²	192.3	183.7	178.6	192.6	180.2	192.0	166.5	174.4	198.4	212.6
Grains	257.9	223.9	205.9	214.3	205.5	186.7	175.4	180.6	184.9	185.8
Livestock	170.6	187.8	173.3	179.5	161.6	156.1	154.4	166.1	166.0	166.2
Poultry, live	157.4	189.8	166.9	173.1	164.9	150.5	139.1	145.7	153.7	183.7
Fibers, plant and animal	193.9	153.1	223.9	186.5	242.3	249.8	257.9	239.5	216.5	240.1
Milk	172.8	180.2	201.7	207.6	203.5	206.7	204.4	202.8	200.2	198.4
Eggs	160.6	159.8	179.0	177.0	188.9	180.7	192.8	213.6	189.2	194.8
Oilseeds	232.2	198.5	204.2	173.2	227.4	209.1	225.5	238.2	241.2	244.1
Processed foods and feeds	170.9	182.6	178.0	176.4	177.1	174.9	174.8	179.0	179.3	181.9
Meats	159.6	188.7	173.6	180.3	166.2	158.8	159.0	167.9	153.3	163.4
Beef and veal	158.6	176.3	156.0	162.0	148.0	147.7	151.8	156.1	146.4	149.1
Pork	162.3	214.7	201.4	213.5	194.2	173.6	170.4	190.5	186.3	183.6
Poultry	157.3	184.1	166.2	170.1	166.2	154.5	144.9	149.6	154.8	179.2
Fish	204.6	218.7	272.4	256.2	276.2	273.2	283.1	292.1	305.4	300.2
Dairy	146.4	155.8	168.4	163.4	170.3	169.5	168.1	167.3	166.8	166.9
Processed fruits and vegetables	154.6	169.8	170.4	166.7	172.3	173.7	175.9	175.8	175.4	182.9
Cereal and bakery products	171.2	178.0	172.1	175.1	169.6	170.0	168.7	168.6	168.4	169.9
Sugar and confectionery	258.9	254.3	190.9	200.4	167.3	176.4	171.4	170.5	171.9	177.6
Beverages	140.7	162.4	173.4	167.0	176.0	177.2	178.8	183.8	184.1	189.3
Vegetable oil and products	224.6	211.5	174.2	170.9	179.9	177.6	180.6	178.3	177.9	182.7
Textile products and apparel	139.1	137.9	148.0	146.3	149.0	149.3	149.8	149.5	150.3	151.1
Apparel	129.5	133.4	139.9	137.4	141.7	142.4	142.8	142.9	144.8	145.6
Hides, leather, and related products	145.1	148.5	167.4	159.9	173.6	170.8	169.7	171.5	174.5	176.7
Footwear	140.0	147.8	158.4	153.0	162.6	162.7	163.0	163.9	164.5	165.9
Lumber and wood products	183.6	176.8	205.5	196.0	212.7	213.6	214.3	219.9	222.7	224.2
Tobacco products	132.8	149.6	163.0	159.1	162.3	162.5	172.2	172.3	174.7	174.8

¹ Includes all processed food (except soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and manufactured animal feeds) plus eggs and fresh and dried fruits and vegetables from farm products group. ² Fresh and dried.

Consumer Price Index, U.S. average (not seasonally adjusted)

Items	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
	1967=100									
Consumer price index, all items	147.7	161.2	170.5	167.1	172.6	173.3	173.8	174.3	175.3	177.1
Consumer price index, less food	143.7	157.1	167.5	163.4	170.0	170.8	171.6	172.2	172.9	174.0
All food	161.7	175.4	180.8	180.0	181.6	181.6	181.1	181.7	183.4	187.7
Food away from home	159.4	174.3	186.1	181.9	188.7	189.3	190.0	190.9	192.2	193.6
Food at home	152.4	175.8	179.5	179.6	179.9	179.6	178.9	179.3	181.2	186.2
Meats ¹	164.1	177.9	178.2	182.8	177.4	172.7	169.7	167.4	169.9	171.3
Beef and veal	168.5	170.0	164.5	168.3	162.3	158.7	159.4	160.7	162.1	161.5
Pork	161.0	196.9	199.5	208.5	200.7	191.7	182.4	174.7	180.1	185.1
Poultry	146.9	162.4	155.7	159.8	155.1	149.2	144.5	144.0	144.5	152.9
Fish	187.7	203.3	227.3	219.2	234.4	234.4	235.5	237.6	238.0	241.1
Eggs	160.8	157.8	172.4	184.9	182.3	179.4	178.7	193.8	197.9	207.9
Dairy products ²	151.9	156.6	169.3	168.5	171.1	172.7	171.7	171.4	171.3	171.1
Fats and oils ³	179.4	198.6	173.7	177.4	171.1	174.3	175.7	177.3	178.8	179.5
Fruits and vegetables	165.8	171.0	175.4	173.2	170.8	175.5	174.8	175.5	177.6	194.7
Fresh	162.6	166.1	170.2	164.4	163.6	171.9	170.7	171.4	174.9	203.6
Processed	170.6	178.3	183.0	186.4	181.4	181.0	181.1	181.4	181.5	181.6
Cereals and bakery products	166.1	184.8	180.6	181.1	180.4	180.1	179.9	179.3	179.9	180.0
Sugar and sweets	195.2	246.2	218.2	224.0	214.9	213.3	212.3	211.1	212.7	219.2
Beverages, nonalcoholic	155.6	178.9	214.0	191.7	227.6	230.7	237.7	246.9	257.6	273.8
Apparel commodities less footwear	135.7	140.6	144.9	141.4	147.8	148.5	149.4	149.2	146.5	147.4
Footwear	138.1	144.2	149.9	146.1	152.3	152.8	153.7	153.4	153.2	154.4
Tobacco products	143.8	153.9	160.5	159.2	160.6	161.0	162.7	163.7	165.4	165.8
Beverages, alcoholic	131.8	142.1	146.8	144.4	147.7	148.3	148.6	148.8	148.8	148.8

¹ Beef, veal, lamb, mutton, pork, and processed meat. ² Includes butter. ³ Excludes butter.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-retail price spreads

Commodities	Annual			1976p ¹					1977p	
	1974	1975	1976p	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Market basket ² :										
Retail cost (1967=100)	161.9	173.6	175.4	176.9	174.8	174.4	173.1	173.0	174.3	178.6
Farm value (1967=100)	178.3	187.1	178.8	183.4	175.0	168.7	168.0	171.1	172.6	181.1
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	151.5	165.1	173.2	172.8	174.7	178.0	176.3	174.2	175.4	177.0
Farmer's share (%)	43	42	40	40	39	38	38	38	38	39
Beef, choice:										
Retail price ³ (cts./lb.)	138.8	146.0	138.9	142.7	134.3	133.5	135.7	138.9	137.5	134.6
Carcass value ⁴ (cts.)	97.4	105.5	88.6	90.1	83.4	84.9	88.3	90.8	87.1	85.6
Net farm value (cts./2.28 lbs.)	86.1	92.9	77.9	77.7	72.3	75.0	78.5	79.8	75.1	74.8
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	52.7	53.1	61.0	65.0	62.0	58.5	57.2	59.1	62.4	59.8
Carcass-retail spread ⁵ (cts.)	41.4	40.5	50.3	52.6	50.9	48.6	47.4	48.1	50.4	49.0
Farm-carcass spread ⁶ (cts.)	11.3	12.6	10.7	12.4	11.1	9.9	9.8	11.0	12.0	10.8
Farmer's share (%)	62	64	56	54	54	56	58	57	55	56
Pork:										
Retail price ³ (cts./lb.)	108.2	135.0	134.3	141.6	132.7	124.8	117.5	117.2	119.6	121.1
Wholesale value ⁴ (cts.)	77.4	103.8	93.6	101.5	88.6	79.2	77.6	83.9	85.2	85.0
Net farm value (cts./1.97 lbs.)	60.8	86.9	78.4	87.8	70.1	57.6	56.4	67.5	69.8	70.9
Farm-retail spread ¹ (cts.)	47.4	48.1	55.9	53.8	62.6	67.2	61.1	49.7	49.8	50.2
Carcass-retail spread ⁵ (cts.)	30.8	31.2	40.7	40.1	44.1	45.6	39.9	33.3	34.4	36.1
Farm-carcass spread ⁶ (cts.)	16.6	16.9	15.2	13.7	18.5	21.6	21.2	16.4	15.4	14.1
Farmer's share (%)	56	64	58	62	53	46	48	58	58	59
Milk, fresh:										
Retail price (cts./% gal.)	78.4	78.5	82.7	82.7	83.1	84.5	83.9	83.6	83.5	83.6
Farm value (cts./4.39 lbs. Class I)	40.8	41.2	46.2	48.4	47.4	48.2	46.4	45.0	45.0	45.9
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	37.6	37.3	36.5	34.3	35.7	36.3	37.5	38.6	38.5	37.7
Farmer's share (%)	52	52	56	59	57	57	55	54	54	55
Chicken, frying:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	56.0	63.2	59.7	61.4	59.4	56.7	54.4	54.3	54.7	58.8
Farm value (cts./1.41 lbs. broilers)	31.6	37.0	32.8	34.7	32.4	28.9	27.4	28.1	27.9	31.9
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	24.4	26.2	26.9	26.7	27.0	27.8	27.0	26.2	26.8	26.9
Farmer's share (%)	56	59	55	57	55	51	50	52	51	54
Eggs, large grade A										
Retail price (cts./doz.)	78.3	77.0	84.1	90.3	90.3	89.0	88.9	96.3	98.6	103.4
Farm value (cts./1.03 doz.)	53.2	50.8	58.0	63.3	63.3	58.8	61.6	70.8	66.8	71.5
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	25.1	26.2	26.1	27.0	27.0	30.2	27.3	25.5	31.8	31.9
Farmer's share (%)	68	66	69	70	70	66	69	74	68	69
Bread, white:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	34.5	36.0	35.3	35.2	35.4	35.3	35.3	35.2	35.4	35.3
Farm value (cts./0.867 lb. wheat)	5.4	4.5	3.8	4.5	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8
Farm value (cts. for all farm ingredients)	7.9	6.8	5.6	6.3	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	26.6	29.2	29.7	28.9	30.5	30.6	30.9	30.8	31.0	30.7
Farmer's share (%)	23	19	16	18	14	13	12	12	12	13
Lettuce:										
Retail price (cts./head)	42.3	41.7	47.7	39.2	53.9	70.1	59.0	43.3	46.8	48.4
Farm value (cts./1.88 lbs.)	13.2	13.8	17.1	10.3	23.0	30.3	18.4	14.0	20.9	16.2
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	29.1	27.9	30.6	28.9	30.9	39.8	40.6	29.3	25.7	32.2
Farmer's share (%)	31	33	36	26	43	43	31	32	45	33
Potatoes:										
Retail price (cts./10 lbs.)	166.6	134.4	145.9	156.2	127.4	119.6	119.7	122.2	120.9	142.0
Farm value (cts./10.42 lbs.)	59.4	42.2	43.8	48.3	32.1	31.8	31.1	41.7	35.4	37.1
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	107.2	92.2	102.1	107.9	95.3	87.8	88.6	80.5	85.5	104.9
Farmer's share (%)	36	31	30	31	25	27	26	34	29	26
Tomatoes:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	54.8	57.9	57.7	54.2	47.2	59.3	61.5	64.7	62.4	82.6
Farm value (cts./1.18 lbs.)	21.0	23.8	23.8	17.4	17.1	27.6	33.3	24.8	26.8	38.2
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	33.8	34.1	33.9	36.8	30.1	31.7	28.2	39.9	35.6	44.4
Farmer's share (%)	38	41	41	32	36	47	54	38	43	46
Orange juice, frozen concentrate:										
Retail price (cts./6-oz. can)	25.9	28.2	28.7	29.2	28.3	28.0	27.6	28.0	28.0	28.8
Farm value (cts./3.08 lbs.)	9.2	8.6	10.7	9.7	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	10.1	9.3
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	16.7	19.6	18.0	19.5	17.3	17.0	16.6	17.0	17.9	19.5
Farmer's share (%)	36	30	37	33	39	39	40	39	36	32
Margarine:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	57.4	62.9	52.6	54.3	51.8	52.9	52.6	53.0	53.0	52.9
Farm value (cts. for veg. oil and NFDM)	27.8	21.1	16.5	14.3	20.3	17.6	19.0	18.0	17.3	19.4
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	29.6	41.8	36.1	40.0	31.5	35.3	33.6	35.0	35.7	33.5
Farmer's share (%)	48	34	31	26	39	33	36	34	33	37

¹ Some 1976 monthly retail prices were adjusted to January 1977 benchmark level. ² For a market basket of U.S. farm foods representing the average quantities purchased annually per household in 1960-61. Retail prices are from Bureau of Labor Statistics unless otherwise noted. The farm value is the payment to farmers for quantity of farm product equivalent to retail unit, less allowance for byproduct. Farm values are based on prices at first point of sale and may include marketing charges such as grading and packing for some commodities. The farm-retail spread, the difference between the retail price and the farm value, represents charges for assembling, processing, transporting, and distributing these foods. ³ Composite monthly average prices of all cuts adjusted for volume sold at special prices derived from BLS and food chain prices. ⁴ For a quantity equivalent to 1 lb. retail cuts: Beef, 1.41 lb. of carcass beef (yield grade 3); pork, 1.07 lb. of wholesale cuts. ⁵ Represents charges for retailing and other marketing services such as fabricating, wholesaling, and in-city transportation. ⁶ Represents charges made for livestock marketing, processing, and transportation to city where consumed. p Preliminary.

Farm-retail spreads for selected foods

Annual

Commodities in retail units	Retail price (cents)			Farm value (cents)			Farm-retail spread (cents)			Farmer's share (percent)		
	1974	1975	1976 ¹	1974	1975	1976 ¹	1974	1975	1976 ¹	1974	1975	1976 ¹
Beef, Choice (lb.)	138.8	146.0	138.9	86.1	92.9	77.9	52.7	53.1	61.0	62	64	56
Lamb, Choice (lb.)	146.4	167.6	184.5	79.2	93.3	101.4	67.2	74.3	83.1	54	56	55
Pork (lb.)	108.2	135.0	134.3	60.8	86.9	78.4	47.4	48.1	55.9	56	64	58
Butter (lb.)	94.3	102.5	126.1	57.0	67.3	81.3	37.3	35.2	44.8	60	66	64
Cheese, American Process (½ lb.)	73.1	76.7	86.5	34.0	36.6	41.0	39.1	40.1	46.5	47	48	47
Ice cream (½ gal.)	107.4	121.9	127.1	40.2	42.5	45.6	67.2	79.4	81.5	37	35	36
Milk, evaporated (14½ oz.)	28.8	30.8	34.3	14.5	15.0	16.6	14.3	15.8	17.7	50	49	48
Milk, fresh:												
Sold in stores (½ gal.)	78.4	78.5	82.7	40.8	41.2	46.2	37.6	37.3	36.5	52	52	56
Chicken, frying (lb.)	56.0	63.2	59.7	31.6	37.0	32.8	24.4	26.2	26.9	56	59	55
Turkey (lb.)	72.0	73.2	73.7	36.8	43.0	40.6	35.2	30.2	33.1	51	59	55
Eggs, large Grade A (doz.)	78.3	77.0	84.1	53.2	50.8	58.0	25.1	26.2	26.1	68	66	69
Bread, white:												
All ingredients (lb.)	34.5	36.0	35.3	8.0	6.8	5.6	26.5	29.2	29.7	23	19	16
Wheat (lb.)	—	—	—	5.4	4.5	3.8	—	—	—	16	12	11
Bread, whole wheat (lb.)	52.7	57.1	57.6	6.8	5.9	5.1	45.9	51.2	52.5	13	10	9
Cookies, sandwich (lb.)	73.5	93.9	95.5	17.5	14.1	10.3	56.0	79.8	85.2	24	15	11
Corn flakes (12 oz.)	41.7	51.9	51.5	4.8	4.5	4.3	36.9	47.4	47.2	12	9	8
Flour, white (5 lb.)	103.0	99.2	92.6	44.0	36.0	29.9	59.0	63.2	62.7	43	36	32
Rice, long grain (lb.)	51.6	47.1	43.2	19.7	14.8	10.0	31.9	32.3	33.2	38	31	23
Apples (lb.)	34.1	34.2	33.2	11.8	12.0	10.6	22.3	22.2	22.6	35	35	32
Grapefruit (ea.)	19.7	21.8	21.5	4.3	4.5	4.6	15.4	17.3	16.9	22	21	21
Lemons (lb.)	42.0	46.7	44.7	11.0	13.0	9.2	31.0	33.7	35.5	26	28	21
Oranges (doz.)	110.9	115.2	114.2	25.9	25.8	23.5	85.0	89.4	90.7	23	22	21
Cabbage (lb.)	16.0	16.7	16.3	4.9	6.0	5.6	11.1	10.7	10.7	31	36	34
Carrots (lb.)	23.3	26.9	25.5	8.1	9.7	8.2	15.2	17.2	17.3	35	36	32
Celery (lb.)	23.9	26.6	30.4	6.4	8.4	8.7	17.5	18.2	21.7	27	32	29
Cucumbers (lb.)	31.8	39.4	35.3	12.7	13.9	12.5	19.1	25.5	22.8	40	35	35
Lettuce (head)	42.3	41.7	47.7	13.2	13.8	17.1	29.1	27.9	30.6	31	33	36
Onions (lb.)	20.8	24.4	23.1	6.7	10.7	7.5	14.1	13.7	15.6	32	44	32
Peppers, green (lb.)	56.4	60.0	58.6	18.1	23.2	22.6	38.3	36.8	36.0	32	39	39
Potatoes (10 lb.)	166.4	134.4	145.9	59.4	42.2	43.8	107.0	92.2	102.1	36	31	30
Tomatoes (lb.)	54.8	57.9	57.7	21.0	23.8	23.8	33.8	34.1	33.9	38	41	41
Peaches, canned (No. 2½)	52.2	60.2	59.0	12.5	16.9	14.3	39.7	43.3	44.7	24	28	24
Pears, canned (No. 2½)	65.4	74.7	71.4	15.9	19.8	15.4	49.5	54.9	56.0	24	27	22
Beets, canned (No. 303)	28.4	32.8	32.2	2.0	2.4	2.4	26.4	30.4	29.8	7	7	7
Corn, canned (No. 303)	29.5	38.4	35.4	4.0	5.5	5.6	25.5	32.9	29.8	14	14	16
Peas, canned (No. 303)	31.9	39.3	38.6	5.4	7.4	8.0	26.5	31.9	30.6	17	19	21
Tomatoes, canned (No. 303)	30.0	35.1	35.1	3.7	4.9	4.8	26.3	30.2	30.3	12	14	14
Lemonade, frozen (8-oz. can)	17.2	23.0	22.7	5.2	6.6	3.9	12.0	16.4	18.8	30	29	17
Orange juice, frozen (6-oz. can)	25.9	28.2	28.7	9.2	8.6	10.7	16.7	19.6	18.0	36	30	37
Potatoes, french fried, frozen (9 oz.)	22.5	25.6	27.5	6.6	4.7	5.5	15.9	20.9	22.0	29	18	20
Peas, frozen (10 oz.)	29.0	34.8	34.8	5.2	7.1	7.3	23.8	27.7	27.5	18	21	21
Beans, dried (lb.)	68.2	41.7	49.2	30.9	19.6	18.2	37.3	22.1	31.0	45	47	37
Margarine (lb.)	57.4	62.9	52.6	27.8	21.1	16.5	29.6	41.8	36.1	48	34	31
Peanut butter (12-oz. jar)	61.1	69.2	70.5	20.8	24.6	25.8	40.3	44.6	44.7	34	36	37
Salad and cooking oil (24-oz. bottle)	107.4	115.6	95.4	14.6	35.0	26.8	62.8	80.6	68.6	42	30	28
Vegetable shortening (3 lb.)	179.0	190.7	153.6	98.1	74.0	56.9	80.9	116.7	96.7	55	39	37
Sugar (5 lb.)	161.2	185.4	119.8	97.3	80.8	46.6	63.9	104.6	73.2	60	44	39
Spaghetti, canned (15¼-oz. can)	23.3	26.7	26.7	3.5	4.0	3.5	19.8	22.7	23.2	15	15	13

¹ Preliminary.

Livestock and Products: Prices, Supplies, and Use

Dairy:

Items	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Milk production:										
Total milk (mil. lb.)	115,553	115,326	120,356	9,308	9,616	9,643	9,233	9,678	9,910	9,351
Milk per cow (lb.)	10,300	10,352	10,893	841	872	874	836	877	899	849
Number of milk cows (thou.)	11,219	11,140	11,049	11,071	11,030	11,039	11,039	11,032	11,023	11,013
Milk prices, Minnesota-Wisconsin,										
3.5% fat (\$/cwt.) ¹	7.06	7.62	8.48	8.25	8.46	8.26	8.26	8.25	8.19	8.16
Price of 16% dairy ration (\$/ton)	138	134	141	136	147	145	143	145	147	151
Milk-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	1.34	1.40	1.57	1.66	1.53	1.60	1.65	1.57	1.50	1.49
Stocks, beginning										
Total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	5,207	5,886	3,844	3,735	6,997	6,735	6,363	5,815	5,708	6,192
Commercial (mil. lb.)	4,732	5,576	3,719	3,643	6,918	6,675	6,288	5,621	5,299	5,388
Government (mil. lb.)	476	310	124	92	78	60	74	194	410	804
Imports, total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	2,923	1,669	1,938	126	141	149	204	366	251	—
USDA net removals:										
Total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	1,346	2,036	1,236	5.8	2.5	107.7	382.9	592.5	846.3	889.7
Butter:										
Production (mil. lb.)	961.7	980.5	983.8	85.4	63.4	78.2	77.3	91.8	105.6	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	46.4	49.2	10.9	9.3	82.4	68.1	60.7	47.4	47.1	67.6
Wholesale price, Grade A Chicago (cts./lb.)	65.7	79.4	92.0	80.9	92.4	90.8	90.8	90.8	90.8	90.8
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	32.7	63.4	39.4	0	0	4.9	14.2	20.0	32.4	31.9
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	929.9	947.7	924.2	77.2	76.9	81.5	82.2	82.2	72.0	—
American cheese:										
Production (mil. lb.)	1,858.6	1,654.5	2,046.7	149.7	157.2	151.9	143.4	164.8	166.8	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	290.3	420.9	307.8	303.3	452.5	455.4	435.6	414.0	411.4	417.1
Wholesale price, Wisconsin assembly pt. (cts./lb.)	79.9	86.6	96.3	90.0	98.1	93.3	92.9	92.8	92.6	92.6
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	60.3	68.2	38.0	0	0	.4	8.7	18.0	17.8	23.3
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	1,780.6	1,717.0	1,918.8	151.2	153.1	172.6	159.4	159.0	149.8	—
Other cheese										
Production (mil. lb.)	1,078.8	1,156.7	1,280.4	91.5	110.2	104.4	108.7	110.1	98.0	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	67.5	73.1	60.8	59.2	65.7	66.2	65.9	67.9	67.1	68.7
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	1,276.5	1,331.8	1,467.0	100.6	126.8	121.1	127.1	144.7	112.0	—
Nonfat dry milk:										
Production (mil. lb.)	1,019.9	994.0	937.6	71.1	61.2	61.6	54.5	72.8	71.5	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	74.6	293.2	468.9	457.5	507.4	494.7	496.6	479.7	480.7	461.6
Wholesale price, avg. manf. (cts./lb.)	58.6	63.3	63.5	64.3	64.0	63.3	63.2	62.5	62.4	—
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	265.0	394.5	157.1	6.6	9.7	8.9	19.4	17.6	24.8	21.4
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	809.9	689.5	735.4	62.6	65.6	57.3	45.8	50.7	53.0	—
Frozen dessert production (mil. gal.) ⁴	1,128.0	1,176.0	1,136.9	77.4	101.2	81.6	75.8	72.9	69.9	—

¹ Manufacturing grade milk. ² Pounds of ration equal in value to 1 lb. of milk. ³ Milk equivalent, fat-solids basis. ⁴ Ice cream, ice milk, and sherbet.

Poultry and eggs:

Items	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Eggs										
Farm production (mil.)	65,927	64,379	64,850	5,193	5,260	5,454	5,320	5,546	5,472	4,936
Average number of layers on farms (mil.)	285,731	276,590	275,573	280	275	277	279	281	280	277
Rate of lay (eggs per layer)	23,079	23,283	23,535	18.6	19.2	19.7	19.0	19.7	19.6	17.8
Wholesale price, New York, grade A										
large (cts./doz.)	58.2	57.8	65.0	60.6	69.2	67.5	75.2	78.2	75.1	69.4
Price of laying feed (\$/ton)	153.8	147.2	151.2	143	159	154	151	153	156	161
Egg-feed price ratio (lb.) ¹	6.9	7.2	7.9	8.4	7.8	7.9	8.6	9.1	8.3	8.2
Stocks, beginning of period:										
Shell (thou. cases)	34	36	22	14	66	46	34	25	28	29
Frozen (mil. lb.)	43.2	54.2	36.3	31.7	31.0	28.7	29.7	25.5	26.1	26.9
Replacement chicks hatched (mil.)	473.4	453.8	492.2	39.6	37.7	37.0	36.3	36.6	40.2	41.3
Broilers										
Federally inspected slaughter, certified (mil. lb.)	7,917	7,966	8,987	632.3	800.3	769.5	699.2	716.8	713.8	—
Wholesale price, 9-city, (cts./lb.)	38.2	45.1	40.2	42.7	39.7	36.4	34.9	35.0	38.8	42.1
Price of broiler grower feed (\$/ton)	168.6	163.4	168.3	160	179	170	169	174	174	178
Broiler-feed price ratio (lb.) ¹	2.6	3.2	2.8	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.7
Stocks, beginning of period (mil. lb.)	33.4	37.2	22.3	20.2	26.6	24.3	24.3	29.1	32.9	27.4
Average weekly placements of broiler chicks, 21 States (mil.)	56.5	57.7	63.6	61.7	60.4	58.4	59.5	61.2	63.6	64.9
Turkeys										
Federally inspected slaughter, certified (mil. lb.)	1,835.8	1,716.1	1,950.1	61.7	252.8	256.6	261.5	146.4	70.5	—
Wholesale price, New York, 8-16 lb.										
young hens (cts./lb.)	47.2	53.2	48.8	49.7	48.0	47.8	48.4	50.6	48.7	49.7
Price of turkey grower feed (\$/ton)	172.7	166.8	173.5	165	181	177	177	179	182	186
Turkey-feed price ratio (lb.) ¹	3.2	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.5
Stocks, beginning of period (mil. lb.)	281.0	275.0	195.2	186.8	369.9	457.7	509.0	299.0	203.4	190.2
Poults hatched (mil.)	140.0	137.1	149.5	13.8	4.3	4.9	6.1	7.6	10.8	12.7

¹ Pounds of feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs or 1 lb. of broiler or turkey liveweight.

Meat animals:

Items	Annual			1976					1977 ¹	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Cattle on feed (7-States)										
Number on feed (thou. head) ¹	9,353	6,369	8,537	8,357	6,438	6,578	7,302	8,000	8,202	7,862
Placed on feed (thou. head) ²	15,861	18,095	18,975	1,411	1,674	2,301	2,159	1,769	1,369	1,361
Marketings (thou. head)	17,380	14,988	18,177	1,529	1,478	1,491	1,343	1,473	1,602	1,566
Other disappearance (thou. head)	1,465	939	1,133	118	56	86	118	94	107	111
Beef steer-corn price ratio, Omaha (bu.) ³	13.7	15.8	15.2	16.6	14.3	16.1	18.0	17.4	16.1	16.0
Hog-corn price ratio, Omaha (bu.) ³	11.3	16.9	16.5	18.3	15.1	13.7	14.4	16.4	16.4	16.8
Commercial slaughter (thou. head)										
Cattle	36,812	40,911	42,645	3,336	3,749	3,659	3,491	3,509	3,546	—
Steers	19,680	17,819	18,881	1,438	1,661	1,573	1,438	1,488	1,539	—
Heifers	8,798	10,438	12,155	988	1,053	1,058	967	968	1,021	—
Cows	7,514	11,557	10,615	837	945	948	1,002	979	919	—
Bulls and stags	820	1,098	994	73	90	80	84	74	67	—
Calves	2,987	5,209	5,351	408	495	480	466	491	478	—
Sheep and lambs	8,847	7,835	6,719	528	646	574	538	551	514	—
Hogs	81,762	68,687	73,783	5,122	6,639	7,211	7,456	6,880	6,117	—
Commercial production (mil. lb.)										
Beef	22,844	23,673	25,662	1,966	2,273	2,202	2,096	2,113	2,160	—
Veal	442	827	813	62	75	75	72	77	77	—
Lamb and mutton	454	399	361	29	34	31	30	31	29	—
Pork	13,583	11,314	12,220	850	1,085	1,188	1,255	1,147	1,007	—
Market prices										
Dol. per 100 pounds										
Slaughter cattle:										
Choice steers, Omaha	41.89	44.61	39.11	38.80	36.97	37.88	39.15	39.96	38.38	37.98
Utility cows, Omaha	25.56	21.09	25.31	25.90	22.90	22.72	20.59	21.62	22.95	23.88
Choice vealers, S. St. Paul	49.63	40.44	45.18	50.05	39.84	47.25	44.90	49.58	53.12	54.88
Feeder cattle:										
Choice, Kansas City, 600-700 lb.	37.88	33.91	39.40	40.42	36.18	36.72	36.26	36.23	36.49	37.86
Slaughter hogs:										
Barrows and Gilts, No. 1&2, Omaha ⁴	36.85	50.12	44.70	49.68	40.16	33.10	32.79	39.03	40.45	41.08
Barrows and Gilts, 7-markets	35.12	48.32	43.11	48.85	39.39	32.66	32.05	38.05	39.52	40.18
Feeder pigs:										
S. Mo. 40-50 lb. (per head)	25.13	44.80	36.24	49.84	27.69	21.75	21.17	24.04	23.84	33.24
Slaughter sheep and lambs:										
Lambs, Choice, San Angelo	40.51	44.45	49.87	49.00	42.88	44.25	45.50	47.69	52.00	51.25
Ewes, Good, San Angelo	15.74	15.34	17.69	16.12	15.90	16.12	—	16.88	20.75	20.12
Feeder lambs:										
Choice, San Angelo	36.52	41.40	51.28	49.68	46.65	47.31	49.67	51.19	53.56	54.81
Wholesale meat prices, Midwest⁵										
Choice steer beef, 600-700 lb.	67.76	72.55	61.00	62.22	57.24	58.36	60.85	62.52	60.04	58.92
Canner and Cutter cow beef	53.48	42.90	52.00	53.25	47.75	46.44	43.84	47.60	49.66	51.09
Pork loins, 8-14 lb.	73.60	92.69	86.45	95.36	83.43	72.55	66.83	73.37	85.32	80.66
Pork bellies, 12-14 lb.	52.04	78.52	85.27	67.37	63.61	47.94	42.58	45.71	51.62	52.08
Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb.	64.11	84.06	79.79	80.68	72.18	69.67	80.69	84.56	69.15	72.82
Annual										
	1974	1975	1976	1975	1976				1977	
				IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
Cattle on feed (23-States):										
Number on feed (thou. head) ¹	13,067	9,619	12,327	9,301	12,327	10,895	10,053	9,280	11,928	—
Placed on feed (thou. head) ²	22,046	24,691	25,499	8,358	5,427	5,615	5,702	8,755	—	—
Marketings (thou. head)	23,330	20,504	24,180	4,950	6,346	5,939	6,201	5,694	7,611	—
Other disappearance (thou. head)	2,164	1,479	1,718	382	513	518	274	413	—	—
Hogs and pigs (14-States):⁶										
Inventory (thou. head) ¹	52,825	47,170	41,855	41,535	41,855	40,865	46,085	48,785	47,020	44,200
Breeding (thou. head) ¹	7,445	6,283	6,368	6,011	6,368	6,706	7,049	6,813	6,774	7,060
Market (thou. head) ¹	45,380	40,887	35,487	35,524	35,487	34,159	39,036	41,972	40,246	37,140
Farrowings (thou. head)	10,207	8,397	10,002	2,103	2,049	2,910	2,523	2,520	2,289	2,999
Pig crop (thou. head)	71,958	60,211	72,399	15,182	14,566	21,478	18,416	17,939	15,595	—

¹ Beginning of period. ² Other disappearance excluded in 1973; not comparable with 1974 and 1975. ³ Bushels of corn equal in value to 100 pounds liveweight. ⁴ 220-240 lb. ⁵ Prior to Oct. 1975, Chicago; annual 1975 midwest markets. ⁶ Annual is Dec. preceding year to Nov. listed; quarters are Dec. preceding year-Feb. (I), Mar-May (II), June-Aug (III), and Sept-Nov (IV). ⁷ Intentions.

Wool:

Items	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
U.S. wool price, Boston ¹ (cts./lb.)	176	150	182	178	188	193	193	188	188	188
Imported wool price, Boston ² (cts./lb.)	213	176	214	201	221	228	220	222	224	222
U.S. mill consumption, scoured										
Apparel wool (thou. lb.)	74,856	94,117	107,743	8,742	9,344	7,943	6,869	8,984	8,218	—
Carpet wool (thou. lb.)	18,595	15,908	15,110	1,163	1,783	1,191	1,289	1,491	1,212	—

¹ Wool price delivered at U.S. mills, clean basis, Graded Territory 64's (20.60-22.04 microns) staple 2 1/2" and up. Prior to January 1976 reported as: Territory fine, good French combing and staple. ² Wool price delivered at U.S. mills, clean basis, Australian 64's, type 78, including duty (25.5 cents). Prior to January 1976 reported as: Australian 64's combing, excluding duty.

Crops and Products: Prices, Supplies, and Use

Supply and utilization of major crops¹

Commodity	Domestic measure ²				Metric measure ²			
	1975/76	1976/77 estimated	1977/78 projected ³		1975/76	1976/77 estimated	1977/78 projected ⁴	
			Alt. I	Alt. II			Alt. I	Alt. II
Wheat:								
Area		Mil. acres				Mil. hectares		
Planted	75.1	80.2	—	—	30.4	32.5	—	—
Harvested	69.6	70.8	—	—	28.2	28.7	—	—
Yield per harvested unit		Bu. per acre				Metric tons per hectare		
	30.7	30.3	—	—	2.1	2.0	—	—
Beginning stocks		Mil. bu.				Mil. metric tons		
Production	430	664	1,120	1,120	11.7	18.1	30.5	30.5
Imports	2,135	2,147	2,000	1,700	58.1	58.4	54.4	46.2
Supply, total	2	2	2	2	.1	.1	.1	.1
Domestic	2,567	2,813	3,122	2,822	69.9	76.6	85.0	76.8
Exports	730	708-778	845	945	19.9	19.2-21.2	23.0	25.7
Use, total	1,173	925-975	900	1,200	31.9	25.2-26.6	24.5	32.7
Ending stocks	1,903	1,658-1,728	1,745	2,145	51.8	45.2-47.0	47.5	58.4
	664	1,085-1,155	1,377	677	18.1	29.6-31.4	37.5	18.4
Price received by farmers		Dol. per bu.				Dol. per metric ton		
Price, Kansas City, No. 1 HRW	3.55	³ 2.89	—	—	130.44	³ 106.19	—	—
	3.74	⁴ 3.01	—	—	137.42	⁴ 110.60	—	—
Rice:								
Area		Mil. acres				Mil. hectares		
Allotment	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.80	.73	.73	.73	.73
Planted	2.82	2.61	—	—	1.14	1.02	—	—
Harvested	2.80	2.50	—	—	1.13	1.01	—	—
Yield per harvested unit		Lb. per acre				Metric tons per hectare		
	4,567	4,679	—	—	5.12	5.24	—	—
Beginning stocks		Mil. cwt.				Mil. metric tons		
Production	7.1	36.9	45.0	45.0	.32	1.67	2.04	2.04
Imports	128.0	117.0	100.8	97.4	5.80	5.31	4.57	4.42
Supply, total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Domestic	135.1	153.9	145.8	142.4	6.12	6.98	6.61	6.46
Exports	40.2	41.8-43.8	44.1	44.1	1.82	1.90-1.99	2.00	2.00
Use, total	56.5	64.6-67.8	63.2	67.3	2.56	2.93-3.07	2.87	3.05
Ending stocks	96.7	106.9-110.9	107.3	111.4	4.39	4.85-5.03	4.87	5.05
Difference unaccounted	36.9	43.0-47.0	38.5	31.0	1.67	1.95-2.13	1.74	1.41
	+1.5	—	—	—	+0.06	—	—	—
Price received by farmers		Dol. per cwt.				Dol. per metric ton		
Price, long-grain milled, S.W. La.	8.34	³ 6.58	—	—	183.86	³ 145.06	—	—
	17.20	⁴ 13.81	—	—	379.19	⁴ 304.46	—	—
Feed grains: ⁵								
Area		Mil. acres				Mil. hectares		
Planted	123.4	129.3	—	—	49.9	52.3	—	—
Harvested	105.1	106.8	—	—	42.5	43.2	—	—
Yield per harvested unit		Tons per acre				Metric tons per hectare		
	1.93	1.99	—	—	4.34	4.46	—	—
Beginning stocks		Mil. short tons				Mil. metric tons		
Production	16.8	19.1	26.1	26.1	15.2	17.2	23.7	23.7
Imports	203.3	212.4	214.0	174.0	184.4	192.7	194.1	157.9
Supply, total . . . . .	.5	.4	.3	.4	.5	.4	.3	.4
Domestic	220.6	231.9	240.4	200.5	200.1	210.3	218.1	182.0
Feed	127.6	126.4-136.6	134.2	112.2	115.8	114.7-123.9	121.7	101.8
Food, seed, and industrial uses	18.8	19.8	20.2	20.0	17.1	18.0	18.3	18.1
Domestic, total	146.4	146.2-156.4	154.4	132.2	132.9	132.6-141.9	140.0	119.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Supply and utilization of major crops¹—Continued

Commodity	Domestic measure ²				Metric measure ²			
	1975/76	1976/77 estimated	1977/78 projected *		1975/76	1976/77 estimated	1977/78 projected *	
			Alt. I	Alt. II			Alt. I	Alt. II
Feed Grains—Continued:								
		Mil. short tons				Mil. metric tons		
Exports	55.1	50.5-58.5	44.1	53.4	50.0	45.8-53.1	40.0	48.4
Use, total	201.5	201.7-209.9	198.5	185.6	182.9	183.0-190.4	180.0	168.3
Ending stocks	19.1	16.1-36.1	41.9	14.9	17.2	14.6-32.7	38.1	13.7
Corn:								
		Mil. acres				Mil. hectares		
Area								
Planted	78.2	84.1	—	—	31.6	34.0	—	—
Harvested	67.2	71.1	—	—	27.2	28.8	—	—
		Bu. per acre				Metric tons per hectare		
Yield per harvested unit	86.2	87.4	—	—	5.41	5.49	—	—
Beginning stocks	359	398	724	724	9.1	10.1	18.4	18.4
Production	5,797	6,216	6,200	5,000	147.3	157.9	157.5	127.0
Imports	2	1	1	1	.1	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)
Supply, total	6,158	6,615	6,925	5,725	156.5	168.0	175.9	145.4
Feed	3,558	3,575-3,875	3,850	3,255	90.4	90.8-98.4	97.8	82.7
Food, seed, and industrial uses . .	491	516	530	520	12.5	13.1	13.5	13.2
Domestic, total	4,049	4,091-4,391	4,380	3,775	102.9	103.9-111.5	111.3	95.9
Exports	1,711	1,600-1,700	1,300	1,600	43.5	40.6-43.2	33.0	40.6
Use, total	5,760	5,791-5,991	5,680	5,375	146.4	147.1-152.2	144.3	136.5
Ending stocks	398	624-824	1,245	350	10.1	15.9-20.9	31.6	8.9
		Dol. per bu.				Dol. per metric ton		
Price received by farmers	2.54	³ 2.37	—	—	99.99	³ 93.30	—	—
Price, Chi., No. 2 yellow	2.75	⁴ 2.47	—	—	108.26	⁴ 97.24	—	—
Soybeans:								
		Mil. acres				Mil. hectares		
Area								
Planted	54.7	50.3	—	—	22.1	20.4	—	—
Harvested	53.8	49.4	—	—	21.8	20.0	—	—
		Bu. per acre				Metric tons per hectare		
Yield per harvested unit	28.8	25.6	—	—	1.94	1.72	—	—
		Mil. bu.				Mil. metric tons		
Beginning stocks	185	245	65	65	5.0	6.7	1.8	1.8
Production	1,546	1,265	1,565	1,300	42.1	34.4	42.6	35.4
Supply, total	1,731	1,510	1,630	1,365	47.1	41.1	44.4	37.1
Crushings	865	800-840	830	700	23.5	21.8-22.9	22.6	19.1
Exports	555	525-565	580	525	15.1	14.3-15.4	15.8	14.3
Seed, feed, and residual	66	80	85	80	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.2
Use, total	1,486	1,445	1,495	1,305	40.4	39.3	40.7	35.5
Ending stocks	245	65	135	60	6.7	1.8	3.7	1.6
		Dol. per bu.				Dol. per metric ton		
Price received by farmers	4.92	³ 6.71	—	—	180.78	³ 246.55	—	—
Price, Chi., No. 1 yellow	5.25	⁴ 6.76	—	—	192.90	⁴ 248.39	—	—
Soybean oil:								
		Mil. lb.				Thou. metric tons		
Beginning stocks	561	1,251	1,460	1,460	254	567	662	662
Production	9,630	8,609-9,049	8,965	7,560	4,368	3,905-4,105	4,067	3,429
Supply, total	10,191	9,860-10,300	10,425	9,020	4,623	4,472-4,672	4,729	4,091
Domestic	7,964	7,100-7,500	7,700	7,300	3,612	3,221-3,402	3,493	3,311
Exports	976	1,300-1,500	1,300	1,100	443	590-680	590	499
Use, total	8,940	8,500-8,900	9,000	8,400	4,055	3,856-4,037	4,082	3,810
Ending stocks	1,251	1,200-1,600	1,425	620	567	544-726	646	281
		Cts. per lb.				Cts. per kilogram		
Price, crude, Decatur	18.3	⁴ 21.1	—	—	40.3	⁴ 46.5	—	—
Soybean meal:								
		Thou. short tons				Thou. metric tons		
Beginning stocks	358	355	355	355	325	322	322	322
Production	20,754	18,920-19,880	19,715	16,625	18,828	17,164-18,035	17,885	15,082
Supply, total	21,112	19,275-20,235	20,070	16,980	19,152	17,486-18,357	18,207	15,404
Domestic	15,612	14,300-14,900	14,700	12,500	14,163	12,973-13,517	13,336	11,340
Exports	5,145	4,500-4,900	5,000	4,250	4,667	4,082-4,445	4,536	3,866
Use, total	20,751	19,100-19,600	19,700	16,750	18,830	17,327-17,781	17,872	15,195
Ending stocks	355	200-400	370	230	322	181-363	336	209
		Dol. per short ton				Dol. per metric ton		
Price, bulk, Decatur, 44%	147.78	⁴ 193.28	—	—	162.90	⁴ 213.06	—	—
See footnotes at end of table.								

Supply and utilization of major crops¹—Continued

Commodity	Domestic measure ²				Metric measure ²			
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77 estimated	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77 estimated
Cotton: ⁶	Mil. acres				Mil. hectares			
Area								
Planted	12.5	13.7	9.5	11.7	5.1	5.5	3.8	4.7
Harvested	12.0	12.6	8.8	10.9	4.8	5.1	3.6	4.4
	Lb. per acre				Metric tons per hectare			
Yield per harvested unit	520	441	453 ¹	465	.58	.49	.51	.52
	Mil. 480-lb. bales				Mil. metric tons			
Beginning stocks	⁴ 4.2	⁴ 3.8	⁴ 5.7	3.7	.9	.8	1.2	.8
Production	13.0	11.5	8.3	10.6	2.8	2.5	1.8	2.3
Supply, total ⁵	17.2	15.4	14.1	14.3	3.8	3.3	3.1	3.1
Mill use	7.5	5.9	7.3	6.6-6.9	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.4-1.5
Exports	6.1	3.9	3.3	4.5-4.8	1.3	.9	.7	1.0-1.1
Use, total	13.6	9.8	10.6	11.2-11.6	3.0	2.1	2.3	2.4-2.5
Difference unaccounted ¹⁰ . . . . .	.2	.1	.2	.1	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)
Ending stocks	⁴ 3.8	⁴ 5.7	3.7	2.8-3.2	.8	1.2	.8	.6-7
	Cts. per lb.				Cts. per kilogram			
Price received by farmers	44.4	42.9	51.3	³ 66.1	97.9	94.6	113.1	³ 145.7
Price, SLM, 1-1/16 in., spot	67.1	41.7	58.0	⁴ 73.0	147.9	91.9	127.9	⁴ 160.9

¹ Marketing year beginning June 1 for wheat, barley, and oats, August 1 for cotton and rice, September 1 for soybeans, and October 1 for corn, sorghum, and soybean oil and meal. ² Conversion between measures may not exactly convert or add due to rounding. Conversion factors: Hectare (ha.) = 2.471 acres; and 1 metric ton = 2,204.622 pounds, 36.7437 bushels of wheat or soybeans, 39.3679 bushels of corn sorghum, 49.9296 bushels of barley, 68.8944 bushels of oats, 22.046 cwt. of rice, and 4.59 480-pound bales of cotton. ³ Season average estimate. ⁴ Average for beginning of marketing year through February 1977. ⁵ Corn, sorghum, oats, and barley. ⁶ Upland and extra long staple. ⁷ Less than 0.05. ⁸ Based on Census Bureau data. ⁹ Includes imports. ¹⁰ Difference between ending stocks based on Census Bureau data and preceding season's supply less distribution.

*Alternative I—Assumes relatively favorable spring and summer weather conditions in the U.S. and abroad. Alternative II—Assumes unfavorable U.S. and foreign weather conditions.

Feed grains:

	Marketing year ¹			1976					1977	
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Wholesale Prices:										
Corn, No. 2 yellow, Chicago (\$/bu.)	2.95	3.12	2.75	2.70	2.77	2.49	2.33	2.44	2.53	2.54
Sorghum, No. 2 yellow, Kansas City (\$/cwt.)	4.64	5.04	4.46	4.47	4.27	3.88	3.60	3.77	3.91	3.85
Barley, feed, Minneapolis (\$/bu.)	2.03	2.58	2.38	2.26	2.68	2.46	2.21	2.05	2.20	2.35
Barley, malting, Minneapolis (\$/bu.) ²	2.67	4.16	3.52	3.21	3.24	3.21	3.00	2.95	2.77	2.91
Exports:										
Corn (mil. bu.)	1,243	1,149	1,711	137	111	180	181	137	128	*108
Feed grains (mil. short tons) ³	44.5	39.4	55.1	4.4	4.0	5.8	5.9	4.7	4.4	*4.9
	Marketing year ¹			1975		1976			1977	
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Corn:										
Stocks, beginning (mil. bu.)	709	483	359	1,492	359	4,449	2,823	1,861	398	4,861
Domestic use:										
Feed (mil. bu.)	4,183	3,191	3,558	667	1,137	1,101	551	769	1,131	—
Food, seed, ind. (mil. bu.)	448	450	491	147	117	120	92	162	125	—
Feed grains: ³										
Stocks, beginning (mil short tons)	33.9	23.7	16.8	51.2	29.3	152.0	95.3	62.6	30.0	163.1
Domestic use:										
Feed (mil. short tons)	153.3	115.6	127.6	24.7	41.4	39.1	19.1	27.4	40.4	—
Food, seed, ind. (mil. short tons)	17.6	17.7	18.8	5.6	4.3	4.5	4.0	6.1	4.5	—

¹ Beginning October 1 for corn and sorghum; June 1 for oats and barley. ² No. 3 or better, 70% or better plump. ³ Aggregated data for corn, sorghum, oats and barley. *Based on inspections for export.

Food grains:

	Marketing year ¹			1976					1977	
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Wholesale prices:										
Wheat, No. 1 HRW, Kansas City (\$/bu.) ²	4.51	4.20	3.74	3.81	3.01	2.77	2.62	2.64	2.70	2.73
Wheat, DNS, Minneapolis (\$/bu.) ²	4.42	4.57	3.74	3.66	2.95	2.79	2.71	2.70	2.79	2.87
Flour, Kansas City (\$/cwt.)	10.30	10.19	9.25	9.35	7.61	7.38	6.94	6.84	6.76	6.81
Flour, Minneapolis (\$/cwt.)	10.60	11.40	10.41	10.21	8.50	8.38	7.91	7.84	7.75	7.86
Rice, S.W. La. (\$/cwt.) ³	30.40	21.50	17.20	16.50	13.85	14.00	13.75	13.60	13.25	13.50
Wheat:										
Exports (mil. bu.)	1,217	1,018	1,173	74	117	104	56	60	54	—
Mill grind (mil. bu.)	551	538	572	45	52	51	47	47	49	—
Wheat flour production (mil. cwt.)	247	239	255	20	23	23	21	21	21	—

	Marketing year ¹			1975		1976			1977	
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Wheat:										
Stocks, beginning (mil. bu.)	599	339	430	430	1,883	1,385	936	664	2,186	1,777
Domestic use:										
Food (mil. bu.)	530	521	559	186	144	140	89	188	144	—
Feed and seed (mil. bu.) ⁴	221	169	170	68	12	62	29	39	45	—
Exports (mil. bu.)	1,217	1,018	1,173	429	343	247	154	399	220	—

¹ Beginning June 1 for wheat and August 1 for rice. ² Ordinary protein. ³ Long-grain, milled basis. ⁴ Feed use approximated by residual.

Vegetables:

	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Wholesale prices:										
Potatoes, white, f.o.b. East (\$/cwt.)	6.74	5.30	5.90	7.74	5.41	4.10	4.73	4.88	6.07	6.37
Iceberg lettuce (\$/cwt.) ¹	2.82	2.71	3.57	2.14	4.01	4.94	3.54	2.82	2.58	2.78
Tomatoes (\$/cwt.) ²	5.41	5.81	6.44	4.82	5.58	6.08	8.22	6.73	6.15	7.30
Wholesale Price index, 10 canned veg. (1967=100)										
	146	168	160	152	166	166	170	171	170	163
Grower price index, fresh commercial veg. (1967=100)										
	152	173	172	163	176	191	189	169	222	272

¹ Std. carton 24's, f.o.b. shipping point. ² 2 layers, 5 x 6-6 x 6, f.o.b. Fla.-Cal.

Fruit:

	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Wholesale Price indexes:										
Fresh fruit (1967=100)	144.0	157.8	160.4	158.8	181.9	184.6	154.1	162.3	172.1	174.3
Dried fruit (1967=100)	247.3	213.4	234.9	207.8	218.9	244.4	309.4	356.7	356.7	356.7
Canned fruit and juice (1967=100)	159.7	173.8	174.4	169.2	178.5	179.8	179.9	180.0	178.7	184.8
Frozen fruit and juice (1967=100)	144.0	156.5	156.2	159.4	152.3	152.5	152.5	147.4	144.2	186.1
F.o.b. shipping point prices:										
Apples, Yakima Valley (\$/cwt.) ²	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6.68	9.54	8.42	7.92	8.45	8.51	8.94
Pears, Yakima Valley (\$/box) ³	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7.72	n.a.	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.18	6.13
Oranges, U.S. avg. (\$/box)	6.79	6.76	6.70	6.10	7.35	7.86	6.64	6.65	5.91	7.48
Grapefruit, U.S. avg. (\$/box)	5.55	6.18	5.78	5.54	7.15	8.48	5.70	5.95	5.39	7.04
Stocks, beginning:										
Fresh apples (mil. lb.)	2,074.2	2,214.1	2,569.3	2,087.1	11.0	352.1	3,165.8	2,769.5	2,249.0	1,775.7
Fresh pears (mil. lb.)	128.6	170.4	162.2	124.0	148.8	239.0	333.3	280.3	211.6	178.0
Frozen fruit (mil. lb.)	516.3	607.3	558.3	522.1	501.9	516.2	562.4	550.7	537.8	495.5
Frozen fruit juices (mil. lb.)	853.4	883.0	967.0	1,161.9	1,317.3	1,111.2	1,002.3	849.7	884.1	910.8

¹ Annual prices are seasonal average ending with year listed. ² Red Delicious, regular storage, Washington extra fancy, carton tray pack, 80-125's. ³ D'Anjou pears, regular storage, Washington wrapped, U.S. No. 1, 90-135's. n.a. not available.

Cotton:

	Marketing year ¹			1976					1977	
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
U.S. Price, SLM, 1-1/16 in. (cts./lb.) ²	67.1	41.7	58.0	57.0	72.3	77.0	76.5	73.1	67.0	72.2
Northern Europe prices:										
Index (cts./lb.) ³	76.3	52.5	65.3	65.9	83.9	86.8	86.5	84.0	78.7	83.8
U.S., SM 1-1/16 in. (cts./lb.) ⁴	78.3	56.4	71.4	71.4	83.6	89.4	87.6	84.7	78.9	85.0
U.S. mill consumption (thou. bales)	7,448.4	5,833.7	7,227.7	579.0	645.2	544.8	515.4	597.9	532.1	—
Exports (thou. bales)	6,123.0	3,925.9	3,311.3	146.1	357.1	226.1	276.9	394.3	371.6	—

¹ Beginning August 1. ² Average spot market. ³ Liverpool Outlook "A" index; average of five lowest priced of 10 selected growths. ⁴ Memphis territory growths.

Fats and oils:

	Marketing year ¹			1976					1977	
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	Feb.	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Soybeans:										
Wholesale price, No. 1 yellow, Chicago (\$/bu.)	6.12	6.33	5.25	4.75	6.59	6.23	6.58	6.86	7.06	7.25
Crushings (mil. bu.)	821.3	701.3	865	69.3	68.8	72.9	73.4	72.7	71.7	—
Processing margin (\$/bu.) ²	.72	.17	.16	.12	.19	.13	.19	.20	.15	—
Exports (mil. bu.)	539.1	420.7	555	52.2	22.2	60.1	67.4	56.7	50.9	—
Soybean oil:										
Wholesale price, crude, Decatur (cts./lb.)	31.5	30.7	18.3	16.3	22.5	20.7	21.8	21.0	20.9	21.3
Production (mil. lb.)	8,994.7	7,376.2	9,630	757.6	766.1	807.4	804.0	805.7	778.1	—
Domestic disappearance (mil. lb.)	7,255.4	6,518.5	7,906	562.2	652.6	589.1	599.4	660.1	591.0	—
Exports (mil. lb.)	1,435.2	1,028.3	976	120.2	155.6	108.5	118.1	85.2	107.1	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	515.5	793.5	561	844.8	1,294.6	1,250.6	1,350.6	1,432.0	1,488.1	1,563.9
Soybean meal:										
Wholesale price, 44% protein, Decatur (\$/ton)	146.35	130.86	147.77	132.60	179.20	169.60	181.20	197.60	207.00	211.00
Production (thou. ton)	19,674.4	16,701.5	20,754	1,616.5	1,644.8	1,747.2	1,763.4	1,741.3	1,710.9	—
Domestic disappearance (thou. ton)	13,766.3	12,501.3	15,552	1,182.6	1,279.6	1,266.3	1,353.9	1,344.6	1,227.0	—
Exports (thou. ton)	5,547.6	4,298.8	5,145	392.5	342.0	405.8	394.4	464.8	457.4	—
Stocks, beginning (thou. ton)	183.2	507.3	358	378.1	350.5	354.9	423.5	427.7	353.9	374.9
Margarine, wholesale price, Chicago (cts./lb.)	44.3	37.9	31.4	31.0	32.0	32.0	33.0	33.0	33.8	—

¹ Beginning September 1 for soybeans; October 1 for soy meal and oil; calendar year 1974, 1975 and 1976 for margarine. ² Spot basis, Illinois shipping points.

³ Includes shipments to U.S. Territories.

Sugar:

	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Wholesale price, N.Y. (\$/cwt.) ¹	29.50	22.47	13.31	15.04	9.80	10.65	10.46	10.22	10.95	11.06
U.S. deliveries (thou. short tons) ^{1 2}	11,237	9,974	³ 10,859	774	1,051	853	816	³ 826	³ 824	³ 718

¹ Raw value. ² Excludes Hawaii. ³ Preliminary.

Tobacco:

	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Prices at auctions:										
Flue-cured (cts./lb.)	105.0	99.8	110.6	—	119.0	112.9	104.5	—	—	—
Burley (cts./lb.)	111.5	104.9	113.2	107.4	—	—	114.6	114.4	113.2	112.8
Domestic consumption¹										
Cigarettes (bil.)	576.2	588.3	² 617.9	51.0	52.4	52.2	50.5	43.7	49.0	—
Large cigars (mil.)	6,306	5,771	² 5,362	404.8	485.3	510.3	458.7	489.3	306.7	—

¹ Taxable removals. ² Subject to revision.

Transportation Data

Rail rates, grain and fruit and vegetable shipments

	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Rail freight rate index ¹										
All products (1969=100)	149.7	169.4	186.6	181.2	187.6	191.1	191.1	191.6	198.0	198.0
Farm products (1969=100)	145.3	165.0	182.7	178.0	183.6	187.5	187.5	187.7	190.0	190.0
Food products (1969=100)	148.9	168.5	185.1	179.5	186.5	189.4	189.4	189.5	194.6	194.5
Rail carloadings of grain (thou. cars) ²	28.2	25.8	25.5	25.6	26.1	29.1	26.7	19.8	22.3	25.0
Barge shipments of grain (mil. bu.) ³	19.8	23.0	30.4	27.8	27.7	33.7	39.5	25.1	20.3	15.3
Fresh fruit and vegetable shipments										
Rail (thou. shipments) ^{3, 4}	4.6	3.8	3.2	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.0	1.8	2.1	2.2
Truck (thou. shipments) ^{3, 4}	12.6	14.3	16.2	13.1	14.4	15.6	13.8	14.6	13.8	11.5

¹ Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ² Weekly average; from Association of American Railroads. ³ Weekly average; from Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA. ⁴ Preliminary data for 1976 and 1977.

General Economic Data

Gross national product and related data

Items	Annual			1975				1976			
	1974	1975	1976	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
\$ Bil. (Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates)											
Gross national product ¹	1,413.2	1,516.3	1,691.6	1,446.2	1,482.3	1,548.7	1,588.2	1,636.2	1,675.2	1,709.8	1,745.1
Personal consumption expenditures	887.5	973.2	1,079.7	933.2	960.3	987.3	1,012.0	1,043.6	1,064.7	1,088.5	1,122.0
Durable goods	121.6	131.7	156.5	122.1	127.0	136.0	141.8	151.4	155.0	157.6	162.0
Nondurable goods	376.2	409.1	440.4	394.4	405.8	414.6	421.6	429.1	434.8	441.8	456.0
Clothing and shoes	65.1	70.0	75.4	66.6	69.3	71.3	73.0	73.5	73.2	75.9	79.0
Food and beverages	189.9	209.5	224.4	203.2	207.8	211.8	215.2	219.2	223.1	225.2	230.2
Services	389.6	432.4	482.8	416.7	427.4	436.7	448.6	463.2	474.9	489.1	504.0
Gross private domestic investment	215.0	183.7	239.6	172.4	164.4	196.7	201.4	229.6	239.2	247.0	242.8
Fixed investment	204.3	198.3	227.7	194.6	194.3	198.6	205.7	214.7	223.2	231.9	241.0
Nonresidential	149.2	147.1	160.0	148.0	145.8	146.1	148.7	153.4	157.9	163.0	165.6
Residential	55.1	51.2	67.7	46.6	48.6	52.6	57.0	61.3	65.3	68.9	75.5
Change in business inventories	10.7	-14.6	11.9	-22.2	-30.0	-2.0	-4.3	14.8	16.0	15.1	1.7
Net exports of goods and services	7.5	20.5	6.6	15.0	24.4	21.4	21.0	8.4	9.3	4.7	4.2
Exports	144.4	148.1	162.7	147.5	142.9	148.2	153.7	154.1	160.3	167.7	168.5
Imports	136.9	127.6	156.0	132.5	118.5	126.8	132.7	145.7	151.0	163.0	164.3
Government purchases of goods and services	303.3	339.0	365.6	325.6	333.2	343.2	353.8	354.7	362.0	369.6	376.2
Federal	111.6	124.4	133.4	120.3	122.4	124.6	130.4	129.2	131.2	134.5	138.9
State and local	191.6	214.5	232.2	205.3	210.9	218.6	223.4	225.5	230.9	235.0	237.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Gross national product and related data—Continued

Items	Annual			1975				1976			
	1974	1975	1976	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1972 \$ Bil. (Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates)											
Gross national product	1,214.0	1,191.7	1,264.7	1,161.1	1,177.1	1,209.3	1,219.2	1,246.3	1,260.0	1,272.2	1,280.4
Personal consumption expenditures	759.1	770.3	813.7	754.6	767.5	775.3	783.9	800.7	808.6	815.7	829.7
Durable goods	112.3	111.9	125.8	106.0	108.4	115.1	118.0	124.3	125.2	126.2	127.6
Nondurable goods	303.5	306.1	319.3	300.6	307.2	306.8	309.5	314.6	317.6	318.9	325.9
Clothing and shoes	58.9	61.3	63.9	58.6	61.0	62.1	63.4	63.3	62.6	63.8	66.0
Food and beverages	147.5	150.5	158.3	148.5	151.2	150.4	151.9	155.3	157.7	158.6	161.5
Services	343.4	352.4	368.6	348.0	351.8	353.4	356.4	361.8	365.8	370.6	376.2
Gross private domestic investment	182.0	137.8	170.9	129.3	126.2	148.7	147.0	167.1	171.7	175.2	169.8
Fixed investment	173.5	149.8	162.8	149.8	147.4	149.7	152.5	156.7	160.6	165.0	169.0
Nonresidential	128.5	111.4	115.7	114.4	110.6	110.1	110.5	112.6	114.9	117.5	117.9
Residential	45.0	38.4	47.1	35.4	36.8	39.6	41.9	44.1	45.7	47.4	51.1
Change in business inventories	8.5	-12.0	8.1	-20.5	-21.2	-1.0	-5.5	10.4	11.1	10.2	.9
Net exports of goods and services	16.5	22.6	16.0	20.1	24.3	22.8	23.1	16.6	16.0	15.7	15.5
Exports	97.2	90.6	96.1	90.3	87.7	90.7	93.9	93.6	95.4	98.0	97.4
Imports	80.7	68.1	80.1	70.2	63.4	67.9	70.8	77.0	79.4	82.3	81.8
Government purchases of goods and services	256.4	261.0	264.1	257.1	259.1	262.4	265.2	261.9	263.6	265.5	265.3
Federal	95.3	95.7	96.7	94.8	95.3	95.6	97.2	95.4	96.0	97.3	98.1
State and local	161.1	165.2	167.4	162.2	163.8	166.9	168.0	166.6	167.7	168.2	167.3
New plant and equipment expenditures	112.40	112.78	120.49	114.57	112.46	112.16	111.80	114.72	118.12	122.55	125.22
Implicit price deflator for GNP (1972=100)	116.41	127.25	133.75	124.55	125.93	128.07	130.27	131.29	132.96	134.40	136.30
Disposable income (\$bil.)	982.9	1,080.9	1,181.7	1,023.8	1,088.2	1,091.5	1,119.9	1,147.6	1,172.5	1,190.2	1,216.5
Disposable income (1972 \$bil.)	840.8	855.5	890.5	827.9	869.7	857.1	867.5	880.4	890.5	892.0	899.6
Per capita disposable income (\$)	4,639	5,062	5,493	4,809	5,102	5,105	5,227	5,347	5,455	5,526	5,637
Per capita disposable income (1972 \$)	3,968	4,007	4,140	3,889	4,078	4,009	4,049	4,103	4,143	4,142	4,168
U.S. population, tot. incl. military abroad (mil.)	211.9	213.5	215.1	212.9	213.3	213.8	214.2	214.6	214.9	215.4	215.8
Civilian population (mil.)	209.7	211.4	213.0	210.7	211.1	211.6	212.1	212.5	212.8	213.2	213.7

See footnotes at end of next table.

Selected monthly indicators

Items	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Monthly data seasonally adjusted except as noted										
Industrial production, total ² (1967=100)	129.3	117.8	129.8p	127.3	130.8	130.4	131.8	133.0	131.9p	133.2p
Manufacturing (1967=100)	129.4	116.3	129.4p	127.0	130.7	129.9	131.9	132.7	131.3p	132.7p
Durable (1967=100)	125.7	109.3	121.4p	117.9	122.4	121.5	123.8	125.1	122.9p	124.1p
Nondurable (1967=100)	134.6	126.4	141.0p	140.2	142.6	142.2	143.5	143.8	143.3p	145.0p
Leading economic indicators ¹ (1967=100)	122.0	114.1	124.9p	122.0	125.5	126.3	127.4	128.6	127.0	127.5p
Employment ⁴ (mil. persons)	85.9	84.8	87.5	86.5	87.8	87.7	88.2	88.4	88.6	89.0
Unemployment rate ⁴ (%)	5.6	8.5	7.7	7.6	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.8	7.3	7.5
Personal income ¹ (\$bil. annual rate)	1,153.3	1,249.7	1,375.3	1,331.4	1,391.7	1,404.2	1,421.4	1,439.5	1,440.9	1,458.0p
Hourly earnings in manufacturing ⁴ (\$) (\$)	4.41	4.81	5.19	5.04	5.30	5.28	5.34	5.42	5.45	5.42p
Money stock (daily average) ² (\$bil.)	283.1	294.8	312.2	296.8	306.6	310.1	310.1	312.2	313.6	313.8p
Time and savings deposits (daily average) ² (\$bil.)	418.3	451.7	490.7	456.7	472.9	478.1	484.2	490.7	494.8	499.0p
Three-month Treasury bill rate ³ (%)	7.886	5.838	4.989	4.852	5.075	4.930	4.810	4.354	4.597	4.662
Aaa corporate bond yield (Moody's) ⁵ (%)	8.57	8.83	8.43	8.55	8.38	8.32	8.25	7.98	7.96	8.04
Interest rate on new home mortgages ⁶ (%)	8.92	9.01	8.99	8.93	9.08	9.07	9.05	9.10	9.05	8.98p
Housing starts, private (including farm) (thou.)	1,337.7	1,160.4	1,536.8	1,476	1,768	1,715	1,706	1,889	1,386p	1,791p
Auto sales at retail, total ¹ (mil.)	8.9	8.6	8.4	10.2	9.8	9.3	9.6	11.0	10.5	10.8p
Business sales, total ¹ (\$bil.)	166.8	172.5	193.1p	187.0	194.3	193.0	197.0	204.9	202.2p	—
Business inventories, total ¹ (\$bil.)	278.4	275.5	299.4p	279.0	296.5	298.2	298.9	299.4	302.1p	—
Sales of all retail stores (\$bil.) ⁶	44.8	48.7	54.3	52.6	54.1	54.6	55.6	57.9	56.6	57.6p
Durable goods stores (\$bil.)	13.9	15.1	17.8	17.4	17.5	17.6	18.2	19.7	19.0	19.5p
Nondurable goods stores (\$bil.)	30.9	33.6	36.5	35.2	36.6	37.1	37.4	38.2	37.6	38.0p
Food stores (\$bil.)	9.9	11.0	11.7	11.4	11.8	11.9	11.9	12.2	11.8	12.0p
Eating and drinking places (\$bil.)	3.5	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5p
Apparel and accessory stores (\$bil.)	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4p

¹ Department of Commerce. ² Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. ³ Composite index of 12 leading indicators. ⁴ Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ⁵ Not seasonally adjusted. ⁶ Moody's Investors Service. ⁷ Federal Home Loan Bank Board. ⁸ Adjusted for seasonal variations, holidays, and trading day differences. p Preliminary.

U.S. Agricultural Trade

Prices of principal U.S. agricultural trade products

Items	Annual			1976					1977	
	1974	1975	1976	Feb	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Export commodities:										
Wheat, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	4.54	4.16	3.65	4.18	3.31	3.07	2.96	2.93	2.97	3.04
Corn, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	3.36	3.10	2.91	2.86	3.04	2.79	2.53	2.67	2.86	2.93
Grain sorghum, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	3.08	2.95	2.73	2.83	2.80	2.58	2.42	2.51	2.58	2.63
Soybeans, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	6.42	5.72	6.07	5.03	6.96	6.53	6.82	7.09	7.36	7.80
Soybean oil, Decatur (cts./lb.)	35.80	25.39	18.05	16.33	22.46	20.73	21.75	20.95	20.86	21.34
Soybean meal, Decatur (\$/ton)	140.85	124.05	155.82	132.60	179.20	169.60	181.20	197.60	207.00	211.00
Cotton, 10 market avg. spot (cts./lb.)	54.88	44.70	67.70	56.96	72.26	76.98	76.53	73.10	66.95	72.15
Tobacco, avg. Price of auction (cts./lb.)	94.00	103.50	105.73	100.50	119.00	112.90	111.20	114.40	113.40	114.70
Rice, f.o.b. mill, Houston (\$/cwt.)	28.33	21.28	16.17	18.00	14.50	14.75	14.80	14.10	13.85	13.90
Inedible tallow, Chicago (cts./lb.)	15.25	12.04	13.27	13.16	13.12	13.00	13.00	12.97	13.40	13.87
Import commodities:										
Coffee, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	69.30	77.27	142.36	109.00	151.00	155.90	172.00	196.10	222.10	240.50
Sugar, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	29.50	22.47	13.31	15.04	9.80	10.65	10.46	10.22	10.95	11.06
Cow meat, f.o.b. port of entry (cts./lb.)	71.77	60.20	71.69	71.99	70.83	64.79	64.07	67.93	71.55	74.31
Rubber, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	39.40	30.60	39.59	36.00	40.07	42.28	43.00	40.22	40.82	41.11
Cocoa beans, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	98.30	74.90	109.60	76.00	128.60	138.20	154.00	155.40	175.9	193.1
Bananas, f.o.b. port of entry (\$/40-lb. box)	3.34	4.41	4.67	4.74	4.68	4.80	4.19	4.26	4.38	5.44
Canned Danish hams, ex-warehouse N.Y. (\$/lb.)	1.35	1.75	1.75	1.78	1.74	1.78	1.79	1.74	1.72	1.74
Quantity Indices										
Export (1967=100)	155	156	174	159	160	201	191	191	167	n.a.
Import (1967=100)	115	123	138	130	138	122	136	148	141	n.a.
Unit Value Indices										
Export (1967=100)	223	221	207	203	211	211	210	206	216	n.a.
Import (1967=100)	193	203	217	191	238	239	247	246	262	n.a.

n.a. not available.

U.S. agricultural imports

Selected commodities	October-January				January			
	1975/76	1976/77	1975/76	1976/77	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Thou. units		\$ Thou.		Thou. units		\$ Thou.	
Animals live, excl. poultry	—	—	88,141	109,444	—	—	18,834	22,925
Meat and preps., excl. poultry (lb.)	589,848	531,144	455,651	407,424	174,945	131,854	137,308	102,846
Beef and veal (lb.)	450,725	413,993	253,722	248,130	134,320	102,580	76,899	62,842
Pork (lb.)	121,470	102,171	188,499	145,908	36,106	25,932	56,767	36,831
Dairy products, excl. eggs	—	—	103,851	120,250	—	—	17,906	25,531
Poultry and poultry products	—	—	10,959	19,739	—	—	2,705	4,828
Grains and preparations	—	—	62,741	52,389	—	—	12,240	13,652
Wheat and flour (bu.)	21	14	116	183	0	2	4	9
Rice (lb.)	692	1,011	246	188	259	151	84	50
Feed grains (metric ton)	114	52	19,671	7,912	25	25	4,022	3,845
Other	—	—	42,708	44,106	—	—	8,130	9,748
Fruits, nuts, and preparations	—	—	211,991	264,920	—	—	51,463	69,936
Bananas (lb.)	1,451,786	1,536,420	79,220	102,366	373,791	370,243	18,753	24,462
Vegetables and preparations	—	—	126,569	148,494	—	—	47,927	52,046
Sugar and preps., incl. honey	—	—	451,591	337,432	—	—	83,156	56,703
Sugar, cane or beet (short ton)	1,200	1,443	395,752	277,455	224	248	63,309	44,741
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, etc. (lb.)	1,342,103	1,286,282	890,031	1,604,048	366,053	401,990	252,082	532,989
Coffee, green (lb.)	837,914	861,638	556,288	1,205,107	220,151	263,778	151,959	401,651
Cocoa beans (lb.)	239,599	149,771	138,784	126,857	75,960	68,549	44,631	57,224
Feeds and fodders	—	—	18,398	24,701	—	—	4,077	6,113
Protein meal (short ton)	12	9	1,652	1,149	9	3	1,294	411
Beverages, excl. distilled alcoholic (gal.)	37,685	46,655	138,911	170,241	8,768	11,241	31,573	40,267
Tobacco, unmanufactured (lb.)	100,066	87,948	78,742	95,819	29,248	18,177	21,120	22,636
Hides, skins, and furskins	—	—	55,139	44,972	—	—	12,187	12,241
Oilseeds	—	—	18,156	30,945	—	—	3,816	7,341
Soybeans (lb.)	6	3	2	4	0	0	0	0
Wool, unmanufactured (lb. grease basis)	27,433	23,139	25,844	26,256	9,030	7,227	8,924	8,115
Cotton, unmanufactured (running bale)	18	43	3,162	10,884	4	5	546	1,188
Fats, oils, and greases (lb.)	9,393	7,629	2,353	1,368	2,314	2,353	501	401
Vegetable oils and waxes (lb.)	1,029,120	855,697	188,113	177,677	204,121	244,621	37,573	54,480
Rubber and allied gums (lb.)	572,905	542,072	148,387	192,813	149,735	157,682	38,400	56,192
Other	—	—	140,690	171,502	—	—	35,189	42,279
Total	—	—	3,219,420	4,011,318	—	—	817,527	1,132,709

¹ Less than 500.

Trade balance

Items	October-January		January	
	1975/76	1976/77	1976	1977
	\$ Mil.			
Agricultural exports ¹	8,211	8,360	1,994	1,907
Nonagricultural exports ²	29,079	31,174	6,760	7,069
Total exports ²	37,290	39,534	8,754	8,976
Agricultural imports ³	3,220	4,018	818	1,139
Nonagricultural imports ⁴	31,362	39,816	8,249	9,880
Total imports ⁴	34,582	43,834	9,067	11,019
Agricultural trade balance	4,991	4,342	1,176	768
Nonagricultural trade balance	-2,283	-8,642	-1,489	-2,811
Total trade balance	2,708	-4,300	-313	-2,043

¹ Domestic exports including Department of Defense shipments, (F.A.S. value). ² Domestic and foreign exports excluding Department of Defense shipments, (F.A.S. value). ³ Imports for consumption (customs value). ⁴ General imports (customs value).

U.S. agricultural exports

Selected commodities	October-January				January			
	1975/76	1976/77	1975/76	1976/77	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Thou. units		\$ Thou.		Thou. units		\$ Thou.	
Animals, live, excl. poultry	—	—	40,844	37,439	—	—	9,526	8,279
Meat and preps., excl. poultry (lb.)	234,736	318,398	173,968	197,500	60,729	65,855	42,500	40,251
Dairy products, excl. eggs	—	—	25,276	44,971	—	—	5,621	13,687
Poultry and poultry products	—	—	64,568	97,227	—	—	16,818	21,880
Grains and preparations	—	—	4,300,116	3,335,125	—	—	976,364	675,132
Wheat and wheat flour (bu.)	433,590	270,070	1,890,079	976,037	93,219	52,655	399,556	185,478
Rice, milled (lb.)	1,291,554	1,527,814	203,606	208,157	340,060	238,437	55,699	38,724
Feed grains (metric ton)	17,582	18,715	2,119,121	2,062,430	4,218	3,943	500,281	431,924
Other	—	—	87,310	88,501	—	—	20,828	19,006
Fruits, nuts, and preparations	—	—	319,682	344,209	—	—	68,073	61,458
Vegetables and preparations	—	—	184,587	273,279	—	—	50,716	59,931
Sugar and preps., incl. honey (lb.)	191,293	183,596	33,897	22,696	39,682	47,487	6,004	4,967
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, etc. (lb.)	34,807	29,610	32,994	37,384	7,402	8,356	6,777	11,924
Feeds and fodders	—	—	367,757	521,150	—	—	113,453	143,688
Protein meal (short ton)	1,685	1,790	255,688	315,883	563	477	84,741	89,696
Beverages, excl. distilled alcoholic (gal.)	2,303	3,842	5,101	7,571	437	935	958	1,832
Tobacco, unmanufactured (lb.)	287,166	260,297	446,477	431,600	94,072	76,899	151,824	-126,146
Hides, skins, and furskins	—	—	171,818	263,869	—	—	68,563	92,589
Oilseeds	—	—	1,354,781	1,747,000	—	—	286,769	387,802
Soybeans (bu.)	225,600	235,100	1,237,022	1,606,025	51,784	50,931	277,442	369,255
Wool, unmanufactured (lb. grease basis)	3,416	2,515	6,750	8,358	386	284	814	883
Cotton, unmanufactured (running bale)	913	1,290	226,426	434,617	225	376	57,601	127,284
Fats, oils, and greases (lb.)	719,374	957,016	132,611	164,579	211,655	196,343	39,116	33,715
Vegetable oils and waxes (lb.)	577,470	743,440	165,145	196,005	160,425	189,238	46,731	49,591
Rubber and allied gums (lb.)	12,904	14,063	6,731	7,359	2,736	2,819	1,436	1,533
Other	—	—	151,244	187,879	—	—	44,443	44,238
Total	—	—	8,210,773	8,359,817	—	—	1,994,107	1,906,810

World Agricultural Production

World supply and utilization of major crops

Commodity	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76 ¹	1976/77 ²
	Mil. units						
Wheat:							
Area (hectare)	206.9	212.8	210.8	216.5	220.5	226.1	231.7
Production (metric ton)	315.8	348.4	343.4	371.6	356.4	350.0	412.4
Exports (metric ton)	56.4	55.6	70.8	72.6	68.0	72.6	69.9
Consumption (metric ton) ³	337.6	343.4	363.2	367.5	359.7	347.4	374.7
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴	74.8	79.7	59.8	66.0	62.8	65.3	103.0
Feed grains:							
Area (hectare)	339.6	340.8	337.7	350.0	349.2	355.4	360.8
Production (metric ton)	569.0	621.7	602.4	659.6	620.4	634.4	692.1
Exports (metric ton)	53.3	55.5	69.0	80.9	69.5	88.6	83.3
Consumption (metric ton) ³	586.6	606.4	621.2	661.9	626.2	636.0	674.8
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴	61.0	76.4	57.5	57.2	51.4	49.8	67.0
Rice, milled basis:							
Area (hectare)	131.3	131.6	130.0	134.8	137.2	143.1	140.5
Production (metric ton)	208.9	211.9	204.1	219.0	223.0	237.8	232.1
Exports (metric ton)	7.9	8.1	8.2	7.7	7.6	7.8	7.9
Consumption (metric ton) ³	208.0	214.6	209.8	216.7	223.6	232.5	233.5
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴	18.6	15.9	10.2	12.5	12.0	17.3	15.9
Total grains:							
Area (hectare)	677.8	685.2	678.5	701.3	706.9	724.6	733.0
Production (metric ton)	1,093.7	1,182.0	1,149.9	1,250.2	1,199.8	1,222.2	1,336.6
Exports (metric ton)	117.6	119.2	148.0	161.2	145.1	169.0	161.1
Consumption (metric ton) ³	1,132.2	1,164.4	1,194.2	1,246.1	1,209.5	1,215.9	1,283.0
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴	154.4	172.0	127.5	135.7	126.2	132.4	185.9
Oilseeds and meals: ⁵							
Production (metric ton)	54.8	55.9	57.6	68.3	63.2	71.9	67.2
Trade (metric ton)	24.5	25.6	25.6	27.3	27.1	32.5	32.8
Vegetable fats and oils: ⁶							
Production (metric ton)	26.0	27.8	27.3	30.7	30.2	32.8	31.9
Trade (metric ton)	8.3	9.1	9.3	9.5	9.9	11.5	12.0
Cotton:							
Area (hectare)	31.7	33.2	33.6	32.8	33.4	30.0	31.3
Production (bale)	53.6	59.8	63.0	63.2	64.3	54.4	57.6
Exports (bale)	17.7	18.6	21.0	19.6	17.3	18.9	17.5
Consumption (bale)	55.9	58.3	60.0	62.0	58.6	62.4	61.1
Ending stocks (bale)	20.0	21.1	23.7	25.1	30.4	22.5	19.3

¹ Estimate. ² Forecast. ³ Where stock data not available (excluding USSR), consumption includes stock changes. ⁴ Stocks data are based on differing marketing years and do not represent levels at a given date. Data not available for all countries; includes estimated change in USSR grain stocks but not absolute level. ⁵ Soybean meal equivalent. ⁶ Calendar year data. 1971 data corresponds with 1970/71, 1972 data with 1971/72, etc.

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